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WOMEN TO WATCH FOR
YOUNGEST OLSEN SISTER AMONG RISING FILM STARS {page 23}

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White Christmas? Dream on

There's a mere 20 per cent chance of waking up to snow on the 25th: Meteorologist

STEPHANIE ORFORD
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

METRO FILE

▶ Get a good look, because you're not likely to see any of this outside your window on Christmas.

After a bright, dry December, Vancouver weather will return to form just in time for Christmas, making spirits ... damp.

There is, however, a one-in-five chance it will snow this Sunday, according to Environment Canada meteorologist Cindy Yu.

"We probably won't have a white Christmas," she said.

Thus far, December has received only about six per cent of its usual rainfall. But "that's about to change," said Yu, who predicted showers beginning Thursday night to continue through the weekend across the Lower Mainland, with about 20 millilitres of rain per day.

"You'll definitely need an umbrella, that's for sure," she said, adding that she expects the rain to continue into New Year's Eve festivities.

Once the weather system comes in from the Pacific, she explained, the cloud cover will probably keep temperatures above freezing in Metro Vancouver.

But on Cypress Mountain it's another story. The mountain had its earliest start ever this year on Nov. 8, thanks to a relocation of the ski hill's 35 snow guns, said Joffrey Koeman, the resort's director of sales and marketing.

Temperatures have been "perfect for making snow," Koeman said.

Rain in Metro Vancouver this weekend means snow for the North Shore mountains.

"It's just what we asked for for Christmas," Koeman said.

Last-minute shoppers, take heart

The Metro Gift Guide has you covered
{pages 31-42}

News

Massive lotto win brings festive cheer to Spain

Struggling town wins $940M US in world's richest giveaway {page 12}

Sports

Canucks rounding into form at last

After slow start, Vancouver now challenging for division lead {page 44}

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Canvassing. Gastown

▶ Vancouver Const. Jana McGuinness announces officers will be canvassing Gastown for information about missing Vancouverite Matthew Huszar on Thursday.

STEPHANIE ORFORD/FOR METRO

VDP on search for missing man

The 25-year-old went missing after an office holiday party in Gastown on Dec. 16 around midnight. McGuinness urged anyone who thinks they have a tip, no matter how small, to contact police.

20 horses died at track in two seasons: Documents

◐ Deaths no higher than industry standard: Regulator
◐ FOI request reveals most broke their legs and had to be put down

DANIEL PALMER
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

An average of one horse every month dies or is put down at Hastings Racecourse, according to government documents.

Autopsy reports — posted on the B.C. government's freedom-of-information website — reveal that 19 horses and one pony were examined between January 2010 and September 2011. Of the 20 that died, 11 were put down as a result of broken legs.

The other deaths owed to a variety of medical problems, including foot infection, bone calcification and hemorrhage.

The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, which regulates horse racing, said while the death of any animal is unfortunate, the mortality rate in B.C. is comparable to North American levels.

"Across North America, there are on average two fatalities per 1,000 horses that start a race," said Douglas Scott, GPEB assistant deputy minister.

Howard Blank, vice-president of the Great Canadian Gaming Corp., said that, while putting down horses is an uncomfortable aspect of the industry, Hastings Racecourse is one of the safest in North America and races approximately 5,000 horses each season.

"We have veterinarians who inspect the horses prior to any race," Blank said. "If a vet, jockey or owner feels there's something wrong, they can have the horse pulled."

But the risk of injury and death to the horse for the sake of sport is unjustifiable, said Debra Probert of the Vancouver Humane Society.

"The horses are built to run, so they have very slim legs," Probert said. "They don't last long and once they're not making money, it doesn't make sense to keep them."

Horse mortality

- Sinikka Crosland, spokeswoman for the Canadian Horse Defence Coalition, said the mortality rate from horse racing is a serious concern.
- "These are probably horrific deaths for the horses," she said.

1 news

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A driver has a terrifying near-miss with a jackknifing transport truck on a Russian highway. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Plastic ban not quite in the bag for city

Seattle's plastic-bag ban has councillor wanting to do likewise here City may not have jurisdiction

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

Green Coun. Adriane Carr is hoping Vancouver will follow Seattle's lead on banning plastic bags, but says she's unsure how the city will address its lack of legal authority to do so unilaterally.

Seattle's city council unanimously voted Monday to ban single-use plastic bags at grocery and other retail stores. The ordinance also included a five-cent fee for the use of paper bags.

Seattle isn't the only city travelling the plastic-bag-free route. San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Portland have also instituted bans and fees.

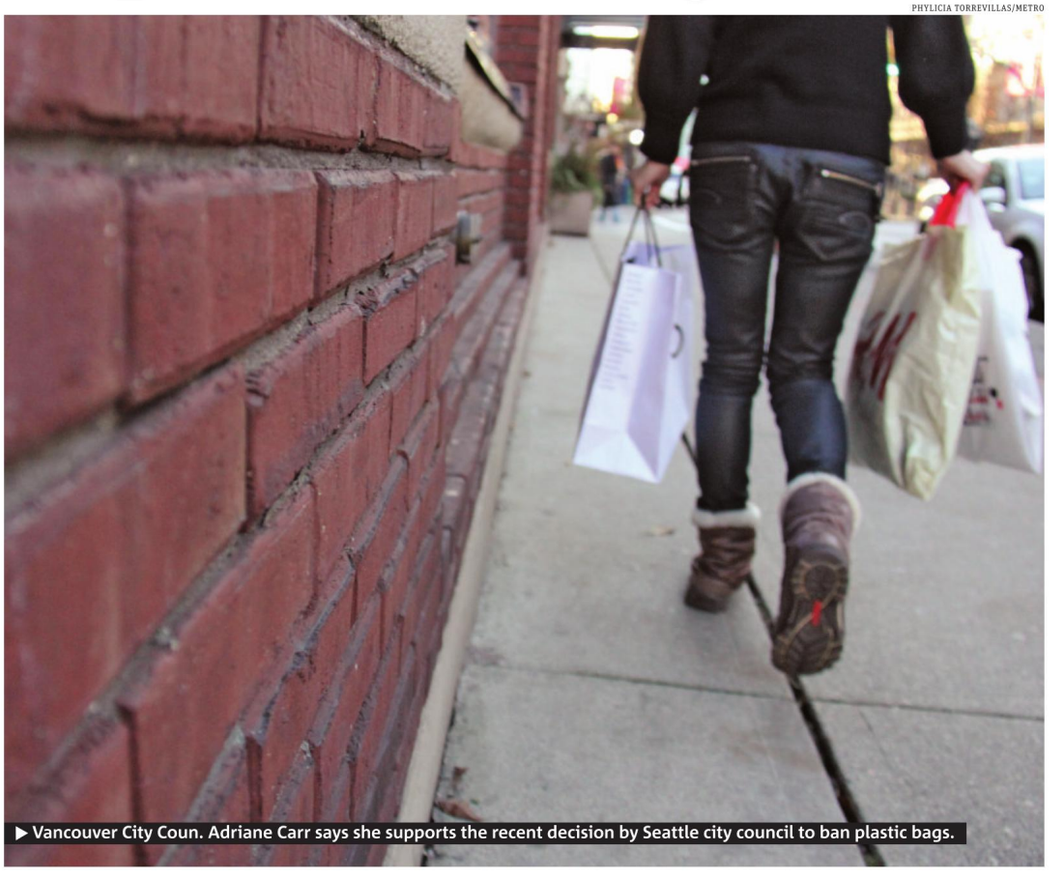
"Seattle has set the standard," Carr said. "If we're aiming to be the greenest city, we should follow Seattle's lead on this.

"We have to pursue the authority of Vancouver to do this under the Vancouver Charter and I'm quite prepared to pursue that," she added.

However, the city's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (GCAP) recognizes "the city doesn't have clear legal authority to ban or tax plastic bags under the Vancouver Charter."

According to the GCAP, the city will "form a community task force to map out a strategy and a campaign to make Vancouver plastic bag free; lobby the province to regulate a producer responsibility program where vendors would be responsible for taking back and recycling their single-use bags, and where the province would set targets to quickly phase out plastic bags; and collaborate with Metro Vancouver on a social marketing pilot program to reduce disposable shopping bags and promote reusable ones."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO



▶ Vancouver City Coun. Adriane Carr says she supports the recent decision by Seattle city council to ban plastic bags.

Occupy wants city to live up to shelter promises

Occupy Vancouver is challenging the city to "make good on their promise" to house the remaining homeless occupiers this winter.

"The city has been issuing a series of self-congratulatory statements on their handling of Occupy Vancouver that we feel are unfounded and somewhat distasteful considering the fact that there are 13 Occupy protesters who are homeless this Christmas," said Sarah Beuhler, communications committee member.

"(They) repeatedly promised to help (13 of the 26 homeless protesters) find housing, but as soon as the story started to fade, so did the city's commitment to these people," she added.

Joy Bartlett, occupier and a member of the tent city council, said when she and her husband joined the occupation, they were able to access various services over the encampment's 37-day lifespan.

"Through the encampment, all of our needs are taken care of," Bartlett said. "When I found out that I was pregnant, we had a network of support … (such as a) midwife. When the injunction passed and we were evicted, it became very difficult for me to access those services all of a sudden.

"Although I'm technically homeless, because of the community of Occupy I have a couch to stay on while I'm trying to find more permanent work," she added. "Because of the irresponsibility of the city in finding proper housing for everybody who needed it at the Occupy encampment, I'm now in a position of financial and housing instability and the only Christmas I'm going to get this year is through my church community."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

▶ Occupy Vancouver activists Sarah Beuhler, left, Joy Bartlett and Richard Porteous at the W2 Media Cafe on West Hastings Street on Thursday.

Home prices to drop 12 per cent: TD Bank

Some of the air will be coming out of the housing bubble in Vancouver over the next couple of years, according to economists at the TD Bank.

They say they expect sales to drop by 15 per cent while prices will fall by 12 per cent. The bank says the reverses will come as a result of lower demand and higher mortgage rates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New video in Batalia murder case

IHIT is looking for information on possible persons of interest in the murder of Maple Batalia at Simon Fraser University in Surrey on Sept. 28.

The two men pictured in the video are not suspects, but may have information that could assist the investigation.

SHIHO YODA

CONTRIBUTED

Mountie challenges claims

A veteran Mountie in Vernon is challenging claims of widespread sexual harassment in the force

Const. Sue Kolibaba says she's not saying the specific allegations of abuse by several female Mounties aren't true, but all RCMP members are being made out to be abusers or victims, and that's not true.

She says that, in her 17 years of service in Saskatchewan and B.C., she's never personally suffered any harassment, although she's aware of others who've had problems.

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Ring in the new year by making a splash

Dip in English Bay will be the 92nd annual Polar Bear swim Event has grown from a handful of brave souls to more than 2,000 participants

COURTESY OF CLIFF LEMIRE

A record 2,246 people participated in the Polar Bear swim last year.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

Basil Pantages, 78, said he's only missed one Polar Bear swim in his lifetime.

His father, Peter, started this New Year's Day ritual in 1920 with just 10 swimmers, which has set the pattern for the worldwide Polar Bear swim movement.

"He was an immigrant from Greece and landed here in Vancouver," Pantages said. "He was a health kind of guy and he swam every day. Every New Year's he'd invite his buddies to come down to an open-air party and join him for a swim, and it just got bigger and bigger every year."

Pantages said he missed one swim when he was nine because of an illness.

Thousands of brave swimmers are expected to dive into the New Year by taking a dip in the icy waters of English Bay at the 92nd annual Polar Bear swim.

The 2012 event will take place on New Year's Day at 2:30 p.m., and registration starts at 12:30 p.m. in front of the English Bay bathhouse.

Last year, a record 2,246 swimmers and dippers participated. The previous record attendance was in 2000, when 2,128 took the plunge.

The free event encourages participants to wear zany and outrageous costumes and participate in the Peter Pantages 100-yard swim.

The Greater Vancouver Food Bank will also be accepting non-perishable food and cash donations.

Drunk drivers continue to dish out excuses

"I'm driving my drunk friends home, I've had less than all of them."

That's one of the top excuses police have heard from impaired drivers this month.

The Insurance Corporation of B.C. put together the list to caution people on the best way to ensure a safe trip home from a holiday party.

"I can't be drunk, I'm the designated driver!" won't cut it, and neither will the other excuses police have heard: "I've only had a couple," "I can hold my liquor" and "I was only going two blocks."

ICBC says even a small amount of alcohol can cause impairment, and no matter how close a person is to home, they should think twice about drinking and driving.

The company says CounterAttack roadblocks will be up across the province during the holidays and no excuse will work if a person is driving while impaired.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More thieves targeting smartphones

DANIEL PALMER
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Two men and an underage boy are in custody for allegedly targeting people selling their mobile phones online and then robbing them.

Surrey RCMP said the three people — Zakaria Noor, 18, Michael Lal, 19, and the young person — are in custody for 12 counts of alleged robbery.

Police said an organized group of young men met with people selling their mobile phones over the past few months after contacting them online. They would threaten the victims with physical violence and then flee once they had obtained the phones.

"It's not just Surrey, but we've noticed an increase in these type of robberies throughout the entire region," said Cpl. Drew Grainger.

Police warn people who are buying or selling smartphones online to be cautious.

"If you're in a position where you think you need to be saving some money to buy a handheld device, you have to be mindful of the fact that this phone could be stolen," Grainger said.

"The person who paid for that device could have the police knocking on their door and asking for that stolen phone back."

ROADS

Mother, two daughters die in crash

A 36-year-old Burnaby woman and her two young daughters were killed Wednesday afternoon when their SUV crashed head-on into a transport truck in Rogers Pass.

The collision occurred at 5:10 p.m., six-kilometres west of the Rogers Pass Summit between Revelstoke and Golden. The woman was travelling to Burnaby from Calgary when her 2003 Suzuki SUV crossed the centreline and collided with a tractor-trailer.

She and her two daughters died instantly. The driver of the Langley-based truck was uninjured.

The crash is still under investigation and the names of those killed is not being released by RCMP.

METRO

Man in gorilla mask attacks woman: Cops

The Nanaimo RCMP are investigating an attack on a woman by an assailant wearing a gorilla mask.

Police say the assault happened last night when a 20-year-old woman was walking her two dogs in an alley and the suspect grabbed her arm.

One of the dogs began to bite the attacker, who ran off.

The man is described as wearing black clothing and a brown gorilla mask.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops nab man for alleged paintballing

Police in the Metro Vancouver community of Maple Ridge have arrested a 48-year-old man after paintballs were allegedly fired near officers.

RCMP Staff Sergeant Hector Lee says police were called Wednesday evening after someone allegedly entered a home and threatened its owner.

The investigation to the suspect's home, and when officers arrived, several paintballs were shot toward them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SUBMITTED

▶ A group of Vancouver friends are hiking for the DTES.

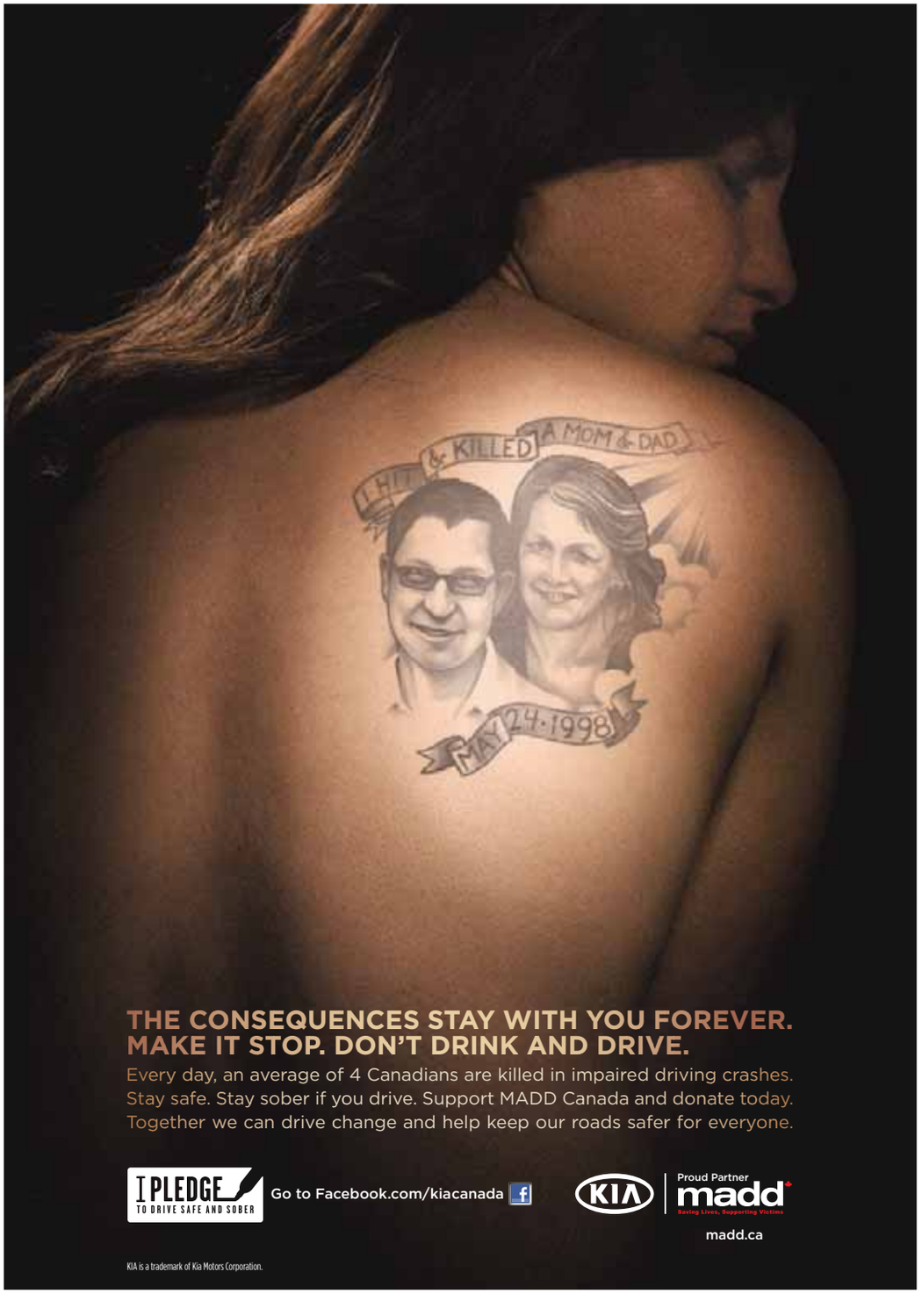
Hikers raise funds for homeless

◗ Each had to raise $1,000 to join hike ◗ $5,000 short of $20,000 goal

A Patagonia-bound hiking group has raised $15,000 toward helping homeless people in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

The team of adventurous Vancouverites has been working since April, holding fundraisers including a pub-quiz night, a lawn-bowling event and a jewelry sale, with all funds going toward Pivot Legal Society and Covenant House, said group member Catherine Wiggins. The Hike for Homelessness team will conclude its campaign with a self-funded expedition in southern Chile from Dec. 28 to Jan. 7.

Wiggins's group of friends does something every year for the community, she explained. But this year they decided to go a step further and organize their own fundraiser to ameliorate the homeless situation that the UN called "a national emergency" in 2007. ● STEPHANIE ORFORD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Man loses appeal in botched circumcision

New sentencing

▶ The court has ordered new sentencing for the man, who was originally given two years in prison under the criminal negligence charge.

A B.C. man who performed a botched circumcision on his four-year-old son on the kitchen floor of his home has lost an appeal of his conviction and been found guilty of a more serious charge.

The B.C. Court of Appeal has stayed the man's conviction for criminal negligence causing bodily harm and convicted him of aggravated assault.

Court heard the boy was born premature at only 2.5 pounds and could not be circumcised at the time, nor did his parents request it.

But the court found the boy's father "changed his world view" over the ensuing years.

"He came to understand that there was great utility in keeping the laws of Moses including that of circumcision," the appeal ruling said.

The trial judge found "that the accused decided that because so many disasters had befallen his family, he had to 'make things right with God.'"

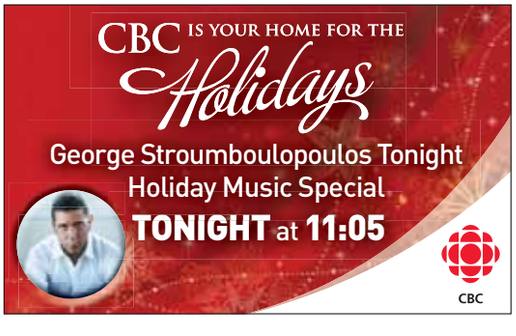
The man, who had no medical training, tried to do the circumcision in 2007 after doctors refused to do it on the grounds the operation would require a general anesthetic, which couldn't be justified on a boy that age.

Court documents say the man gave alcohol to the boy, referred to only by the initials D.J., and used a blade that was not as sharp as a surgical instrument. To staunch the bleeding, the man used a veterinary powder suitable only for livestock.

The boy was taken to hospital four days later and required corrective surgery, including a proper circumcision. The surgeon testified his penis would have healed to be badly deformed.

At the man's original trial, the judge in the case convicted him on the negligence charge but acquitted him on the assault charges.

He appealed his conviction, arguing his religious beliefs should have allowed him to do the procedure, but the Appeal Court rejected the appeal. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Layton is Canada's Newsmaker of the Year

Late NDP leader won overwhelming majority of votes in two surveys — one by editors and news directors and another by the public online

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No other Canadian dominated the headlines like Jack Layton in 2011.

John Gilbert Layton wore dozens of different name tags in his decades of public service: activist, guitarist, father and, finally, leader of the official Opposition.

Most knew the NDP leader by another name: Jack.

No other Canadian dominated the headlines like Layton in 2011, making him the clear choice for Newsmaker of the Year by editors and news directors participating in the annual survey of newsrooms across the country by The Canadian Press.

Layton received 90 per cent of the votes — one of the most overwhelming margins in the 65-year history of the CP Newsmaker voting. The next closest was Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who received just five per cent of the vote totals.

Also earning votes were Canada's new female premiers, the protesters at the heart of the Occupy Canada movement, former auditor general Sheila Fraser and the Grande Prairie Composite Warriors football team.

"Jack Layton singlehandedly shaped Canada's political narrative in 2011, from the decimation of the Bloc Quebecois, to the marginalization of the Liberal party, to the utter vacuum left on Parliament Hill by his death," said Brodie Fenlon, senior news editor, The Huffington Post Canada.

"We watched the drama of this scrappy underdog, cane in hand, pulling off an astonishing victory only to be felled months later before he could truly make something of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cherry a distant second

- **Layton claimed half of** the online votes cast, with hockey commentator Don Cherry a distant second at 16 per cent. Prime Minister Stephen Harper garnered 10 per cent of the vote, narrowly edging the Occupy Canada protesters at 9.5 per cent.
- **Stratford, Ont., pop sensation** Justin Bieber, who made tabloid headlines earlier this year when a fan named him in a paternity suit that she later dropped, rounded out the top five with 3.4 per cent of the vote.

Chretien gets $200,000 compensation

The Federal Court has ordered Ottawa to pay $200,000 to former Liberal prime minister Jean Chretien.

The money is compensation for legal fees Chretien incurred while he fought the findings of a federal inquiry into the sponsorship scandal.

The Federal Court agreed with Chretien in 2008 that Justice John Gomery had made inappropriate comments to the media about the former PM that compromised the process.

The federal government unsuccessfully appealed that decision, and Chretien was awarded $25,000 early this year for having to fight that round in the Federal Court of Appeal.

Chretien had said he spent $300,000 for the initial Federal Court review of the conclusions written by Gomery in his 2005 report on the scandal.

The attorney general of Canada argued Chretien should only get $36,205.20, but Judge Francois Lemieux used his discretion to award an amount above the usual guidelines for compensation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO

Man wanted for vicious kidnapping

At least two people kidnapped, beat and tortured a man and demanded half a million dollars in ransom from his family in a "vicious" attack on Dec. 2 that ended with the victim falling from a roof, Toronto police allege.

One man has been arrested in the kidnapping, but investigators are searching for Cardinell Senior, 32.

"The victim in this vicious kidnapping was on his way to a hockey game when he was kidnapped by suspects and held against his will at an undisclosed location, where he was beaten and, I'd say, tortured for a number of hours," said Staff Insp. Mike Earl.

The suspects contacted the family of the victim, and demanded $500,000 for his life, Earl said. The family arranged to meet with the suspects and called police. When police arrived at the meeting spot they arrested Jason King, 31, after a "confrontation." Senior fled the scene.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SKANDINAVISK DYREPARK/POLFOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Siku's mother failed to produce enough milk to feed him.

Zoo raises polar bear by hand

A Danish zoo says a month-old polar bear cub is being raised by humans after his mother failed to produce enough milk to feed him.

Scandinavian Wildlife Park manager Frank Vigh-Larsen says Siku is doing "really fine."

Vigh-Larsen said Thursday that the cub was two days old when he was removed from his mother after surveillance video inside the bear cave revealed that he "was moaning and being unruly all the time."

Vigh-Larsen says Siku would have been in danger of death if he had stayed with his mother.

Three people are giving round-the-clock care to the cub at the zoo in Kolind, 170 kilometres northwest of Copenhagen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7

The cub now weighs 7 pounds. He was 3 pounds at birth

Wayward puffin returns home

A young Atlantic puffin rescued last week from Montreal's bustling downtown has arrived in its suspected home on the East Coast.

The wayward puffin, believed to be less than a year old, touched down at the airport in St. John's aboard a flight compliments of Air Canada.

A veterinary technician spotted the disoriented puffin toddling down a Montreal street a week ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Journal retracts fatigue report

The journal Science is retracting a controversial 2009 report that linked chronic fatigue syndrome to a virus.

Science is taking that step on its own. Normally, authors retract their own research papers when serious problems arise after publication.

But Science has lost confidence in the report and the validity of its conclusions, editor-in-chief Bruce Alberts writes in Friday's issue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spanish lotto win gives tiny town much needed boost before holidays

One cash-strapped town has won the world's biggest lottery, raking in a combined $940M US
Top prize split between 1,800 ticket holders Lucky winners flock to streets in celebration of windfall

ALVARO BARRIENTOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ People celebrate winning a share in the top prize of Spain's Christmas lottery, known as El Gordo, in the town of Granen, around 300 kilometres from Madrid.

A tiny town of 2,000 in cash-strapped Spain found itself richer by $940 million US on Thursday after scooping the top prize in the country's famed Christmas lottery.

Billed as the world's richest, the lottery dishes out some $3.29 billion to winners across the country.

The top prize — dubbed El Gordo (The Fat One) — was split among the holders of tickets bearing the number 58268. The number appeared on 1,800 tickets, giving winners $522,000 for their $26 ticket.

The state lottery agency said all 1,800 tickets with that number were sold in the town of Granen, located in the arid and barren northeastern Los Monegros area.

The news brought the town's residents out onto the street to dance, sing, hug each other and spray sparkling wine all over.

"It's brilliant!" Pilar Azagra, who runs the town's lottery store, told Spanish National Television. She appeared a bit stunned. "I haven't had time to react, the number came out and then people started flocking to the shop," she said, adding that many in her family had bought tickets.

Azagra said the windfall was more than welcome as several companies in Granen had closed because of the economic crisis forcing many residents to seek employment in neighbouring towns and cities.

Spain is struggling to emerge from a near two-year recession that has left it with a eurozone-high 21.5 per cent unemployment rate and stalled economy.

Other lotteries have larger individual top prizes but El Gordo is ranked as the world's richest for the total sum paid out.

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Lotto facts

- **The Christmas lottery aims** for a share-the-wealth system, rather than a single jackpot, and thousands of numbers yield at least some kind of return.
- **Since it began in 1812,** the Dec. 22 lottery has become a favourite holiday tradition.
- **Spain holds another big lottery** Jan. 6 to mark the Feast of the Epiphany. It is known as El Nino (The Child), in reference to the baby Jesus.

Stolen Christmas kettle unites locals for charity

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

A stolen Salvation Army Christmas kettle has opened up the wallets and hearts of Regina residents.

The thief made off with red kettle, filled with about $800, from the city's Northgate Mall.

When the story got out, listeners of radio station CKRM responded, donating thousands of dollars.

Major Doug Binner with the Salvation Army says the group is grateful and appreciates the outpouring of donations to help reach its goal of $150,000.

He says just this morning alone, $4,000 in cash has been donated, while there is another $6,000 in donations committed, plus the local Walmart says it will match donations up to $100,000.

Binner says it's amazing how something bad can turn into something positive. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's top 10 weather stories

Devastating floods and fires lead Environment Canada's list of biggest weather events of 2011

Fires and floods of almost biblical proportions that forced thousands from their homes and cut a swath of destruction through several communities took a heavy toll on Canadians this year, says one of the country's lead climatologists.

While those disasters weren't as deadly as the Japanese tsunami or the violent weather that battered the U.S., they wore down Canadians and cost the country billions, said David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada, who released his list of the top 10 weather stories of 2011 Thursday.

"We were getting our own fair share of misery, hardship and misfortune from the weather," he said.

"There have been tough years but I think this one, in many ways, has been difficult from an expensive point of view and the extreme aspect of it."

The floods that swamped parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba were "unprecedented on so many fronts," placing them in the top spot, Phillips said.

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Weather's top 10

1. Historic floods in Saskatchewan and Manitoba
2. Wildfires at Slave Lake
3. Richelieu River floods
4. Challenging growing season for farmers
5. Tornado in Goderich
6. Hurricanes in Atlantic region
7. Summer a mixed bag of weather
8. Arctic sea ice near record low
9. Groundhog Day blizzard
10. High winds rip through southern Alberta

Stranded woman ate candy bars

A U.S. university student said she had nothing to eat but two candy bars while her car was stuck in the snow for nine days in a remote area of Arizona.

The 23-year-old Lauren Weinberg was seen leaving her mother's home Dec. 11. Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Gerry Blair said she was driving around with no destination when she came to a dirt road near cliffs that divide the state's high country from the desert. Her car became stuck after she stopped to try to open a gate.

Weinberg told a sheriff's deputy she put snow in a water bottle and placed it on the car so it would melt, Blair said.

She did not have a heavy coat or blankets. She had a cellphone but the battery was dead.

Two U.S. Forest Service employees found her nine days later.

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Brazil. Fire

▶ A firefighter rescues a dog from a fire in the shantytown Favela do Moinho in Sao Paulo.

ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shantytown blaze

The fire started on Thursday in a vacant building and spread to the shantytown where about 200 homes were destroyed and one person was found dead, according to local media reports.

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Bombers strike blow to Baghdad

Tensions rise in Iraq as attacks, mere days after U.S. forces leave, threaten stability in war-torn country

KARIM KADIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Iraqi security forces and people gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on Thursday.

A wave of 16 bombings ripped across Baghdad Thursday, killing at least 69 people in the worst violence in Iraq for months. The apparently co-ordinated attacks struck days after the last American forces left the country and in the midst of a major government crisis between Shiite and Sunni politicians that has sent sectarian tensions soaring.

The bombings may be linked more to the U.S. withdrawal than the political crisis, but all together, the developments heighten fears of a new round of Shiite-Sunni sectarian bloodshed like the one a few years back that pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the bombings bore all the hallmarks of al-Qaida's Sunni insurgents. Most appeared to hit Shiite neighbourhoods, although some Sunni areas were also targeted.

In all, 11 neighbourhoods were hit by either car bombs, roadside blasts or sticky bombs attached to cars. There was at least one suicide bombing and the blasts went off over several hours.

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Deadly attack

- The deadliest attack was in the Karrada neighbourhood, where a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the office of a government agency.
- At least 14 blasts went off in the morning and two more in the evening.
- Two police officers at the scene said the bomber was driving an ambulance and told guards that he needed to get to a nearby hospital. After the guards let him through, he drove to the building where he blew himself up, the officers said.

France's genocide bill upsets Turkey

French lawmakers easily passed a measure Thursday to make it a crime to deny the mass killings of Armenians in 1915 by Ottoman Turks amounted to genocide. Turkey swiftly retaliated, ordering its ambassador home and halting official contacts. Turkey officials also suspended joint military manoeuvres and restricted French military flights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friend or foe?

- Turkey, a NATO member, is a strategic ally of France and valued trading partner, and the moves diminish ties at a particularly crucial time. Paris and Ankara are both deeply involved in international issues from the uprising in Syria to Afghanistan.

Israel drops Gaza flotilla charges

Israel's attorney general has decided not to prosecute Israelis who participated in a Gaza-bound flotilla that was raided a year ago.

The suspects included an Israeli-Arab lawmaker and an Islamist leader.

Nine pro-Palestinian Turkish activists were killed when Israeli naval commandos stormed the Gaza-bound ships.

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Sears

NATHAN DENTTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The Duchess of Cambridge hugs six-year-old Diamond Marshall as the Royal Couple arrives in Calgary on July 7.

Wish comes true for girl who met Kate

Dad says 6-year-old's cancer has gone into remission

The shy, bald little girl who charmed Prince William and Kate when they visited Calgary in the summer has received her Christmas wish.

Diamond Marshall's father says she had surgery this week and the biopsies have shown her cancer is in remission, though she still must undergo chemotherapy and a bone-marrow transplant next month.

Diamond's brief meeting with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on a windy July day brought many Canadians to tears.

The six-year-old, who is battling Stage 4 undifferentiated sarcoma, had asked the Children's Wish Foundation for a chance to meet "a real princess."

"This is a wonderful piece of news, especially at this time of year and we will be thinking of Diamond in the coming year."
STATEMENT FROM WILL AND KATE

She not only got to meet Kate, she managed to get in a hug with her idol and present her with flowers.

Lyall Marshall, Diamond's father, says he believes the brief encounter with the royal couple helped his little girl fight the disease.

"That hug had a lot of meaning, we're very thankful for that meet and greet for her and the whole community rallying behind her," said Marshall. "From a father's point of view when you can say the whole world is rooting for you to get better, I mean, that's a lot."

William and Kate were told by their private secretary about Diamond's condition.

Diamond will spend Christmas in hospital recovering from the surgery, but her dad says they're all OK with that as long as they're together.

If all goes well, Diamond will be home for New Year's Eve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANCER AWARENESS

Trouble over 'Boobie' bracelet

Controversy is stirring at a Catholic school in Woodstock, Ont., over bracelets supporting breast-cancer awareness.

The bracelets read "I Love Boobies" and a 13-year-old student at St. Rita's Catholic School has been put on in-school suspension over them.

Kelly Millson has been urged by his parents to continue wearing them at school, but he says he is not allowed to be in class, in the hallways or anywhere other students are congregating.

But he did decide to take the bracelets off this week so he could go out for recess.

School board superintendent Tamara Nugent says the decisions on dress code are made by each school's principal.

Several schools across Canada and the United States have banned the bracelets, deeming them inappropriate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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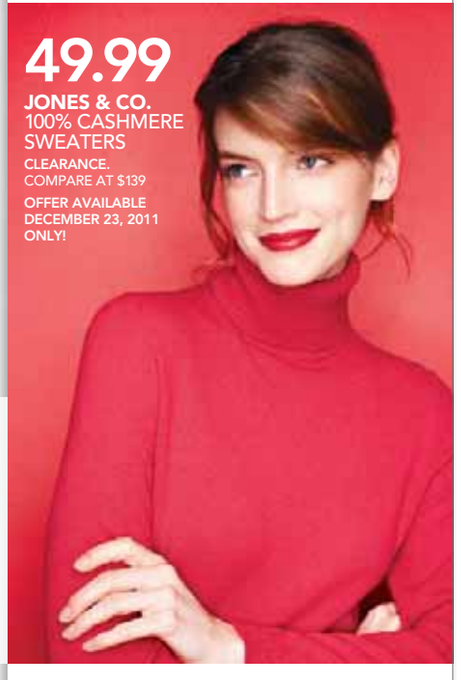

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sears.ca

File it under bad gift ideas

- Company apologizes for labelling Mein Kampf as a 'perfect present'
- Found in store's politics section

A British bookstore chain has apologized after promoting Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf as the "perfect present" for Christmas.

Waterstone's issued an apology after several people spotted the anti-Semitic tome at a store in Huddersfield in West Yorkshire with a sales sticker saying the book is "the perfect present" and "essential gift for anyone seeking to understand one of history's most despicable figures. A shocking read and vital warning for future generations."

The online version of the U.K.'s Jewish Chronicle newspaper reports seeing copies of the book displayed in Manchester, Cheshire and Liverpool.

A Waterstone's spokesperson told the Chronicle that the large bookstore chain doesn't actively promote the book and its customers "are capable of forming their own opinions on whether to purchase it or not."

"You do raise a couple of instances where we have obviously got things wrong. The book should not be stocked in any politics section," the spokesperson said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BARRY BATCHELOR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A copy of Mein Kampf

Italy seeking women with suspect breast implants

Italy's health ministry on Thursday asked hospitals to track down women who received silicone breast implants made by a suspect French company due to concerns the implants may be unsafe.

The ministry's health council also said the national health system would pay to have the Poly Implant Prothese, or PIP, implants removed if medical conditions require it, such as if they have ruptured.

While saying there was no proof of any greater cancer risk among women with PIP implants, the council suggested that women with the implants contact their surgeons because there's a "greater probability of rupture and inflammatory reaction."

The council met Thursday in an emergency session on the eve of an expected decision by French health authorities over whether to recommend mass surgery for thousands of women who received PIP implants.

French investigators say the implants were made with cheap industrial silicone, not medical-grade silicone, and that more than 1,000 women in France have had one or two implants burst.

In addition, there have been eight cases of cancer among women with the implants, including one who died in November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Implants recalled

- Italy's health ministry estimates that about 4,000 to 4,300 PIP devices have been implanted in women in Italy. From 2005 to today, some 24 ruptures have been reported.
- Italy recalled the implants April 1, 2010, a day after French health authorities reported that they had suspended the sale, distribution and exportation of PIP implants after discovering that the vast majority were made with industrial silicone.

France to announce guidance

Tens of thousands of women in France, Britain and other countries are awaiting French government guidance Friday on what to do about their breast implants, which may be unsafe, a day after Italy asked hospitals to track down women who may have received the suspect implants.

French health authorities are expected to make an unprecedented move to urge women with silicone-gel implants made by French company Poly Implant Prothese to get them removed at the state's expense, because of the risks that they could rupture and leak a questionable type of silicone gel into their bodies.

It's unclear how far the French recommendations will go, and how much the extreme measures could cost the government as it teeters toward a new recession.

Britain, Italy, Spain, Portugal and other countries in Europe and South America are keeping a close eye on the decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Odd news. Kids

▶ Twins Danielle, right, and Nicole Fisher, 23, delivered baby boys 13 minutes apart at Virtua Hospital Tuesday.

JOHN ZIOMEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Double trouble

Danielle and Nicole Fisher were in adjacent rooms in the same New Jersey hospital when they had their boys within 13 minutes of each other. Their due dates were a month apart. The women were born within 12 minutes of each other 23 years ago.

Toy jewels recalled by Health Canada

Health Canada is recalling more children's jewelry products after a sampling program turned up excessive lead in the products.

One recall involves metallic heart-shaped pendants and plastic bracelets imported from China and sold by Toy Land Co. of Vancouver.

The other involves a Writer's Block necklace with love, peace and globe charms made by Jude M Designs of India and sold in Canada by Liquidation World Inc. of Brantford, Ont. Consumers should immediately take any recalled jewelry products away from children and dispose of them after contacting their municipality for instructions on disposing items containing lead.

For more information, consumers may contact Toy Land Company toll-free 1-800-668-6388.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

8

In testing, the peace charm was found to contain about eight times the allowable limit for lead.

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Hitch. Hiker

▶ A man tries to catch a ride to Namur, Belgium, while trade-union members block a main boulevard in Brussels on Thursday. A 24-hour pre-Christmas public-sector strike to protest pension reform hit rail, road and bus traffic across Belgium.

GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest hinders holiday travellers

Holiday strikes to protest austerity measures paralyzed ground traffic in Belgium, delayed flights in Paris, and promised days of headaches for Christmas travellers around Europe.

Consumers reluctant to purchase big-ticket items

The Conference Board of Canada's latest consumer confidence numbers are back to where they were around the height of the 2008-2009 recession, a troubling sign of what's to come for the economy in 2012.

The Ottawa think-tank said Thursday its Index of Consumer Confidence posted a 6.5-point drop in December, bringing 2011 to a "disappointing" close and signalling that further belt-tightening by Canadians.

"We've always seen a link between the consumer confidence level today and consumer spending six months down the road," said board economist Todd Crawford in an interview.

Canadians tend to think their economy is based mainly on exports — and those do play a big role — but a decline in consumer spending is not to be taken lightly, Crawford said.

"I think that's why most people, and certainly us, are expecting (gross domestic product) growth in Canada to slow over the next two to three quarters."

At 69.9, the index is at its lowest point in more than two and a half years and down 11.1 points from the end of 2010.

The board uses a 2002 base of 100 in compiling the index, which reflects how Canadians feel about the economy, job creation, future major purchases and their personal finances.

The board said opinion eroded on all four questions, but responses to the major purchases question were particularly gloomy.

In December, just 34.1 per cent of respondents said now is a good time to buy a big-ticket item, down 1.9 percentage points from November and the eighth consecutive monthly decline. More worrisome is that 54 per cent said now is a bad time to make a major purchase, up 3.5 percentage points from last month and more than 10 points higher than a year ago.

More than 27 per cent of respondents said they expected fewer jobs — the highest level since 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 122.95 (11,876.48)	+ 0.45¢ ($97.93¢ US)

OIL	Natural gas
+ 86¢ US ($99.53 US)	$3.169 US (+ 1.00¢ US)

Gold $1,610.60 US (- $3.00 US)

TSX regulator plans to expedite enforcement

Ottawa can have national regulator with support of all provinces Quebec, Alberta and B.C. not on board

Canada's largest stock market watchdog is moving ahead with plans to speed up enforcement and says it will be business as usual with other provinces after the Supreme Court scrapped a planned national securities regulator.

Ontario Securities Commission chairman Howard Wetston said Thursday the regulator is focused on the best interests of its own investors and companies, though it will review a Supreme Court ruling that quashed the federal plan.

The regulator of Canada's dominant stock exchange — the TSX — has been developing new rules aimed at speeding up enforcement for securities law cases such as insider trading that drag on for years.

"We are currently dealing with important policy, enforcement, market infrastructure and other matters that will require our full commitment," Wetston said in a statement.

The Supreme Court turned down Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's plan as unconstitutional, which effectively puts an end to a years-long push for a unified body to oversee capital markets. But the court acknowledged Ottawa has a role in addressing systemic risk to the financial system.

Canada is the only country in the G20 without a national securities regulator. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatoon buys X-rated domains

The City of Saskatoon has purchased six Internet domain names ending in .xxx, including Saskatoon.xxx, which were created for the adult entertainment industry. Kevin Peacock with the city says it's about protecting the brand and image of Saskatoon. The domain names cost taxpayers nearly $1,000 to hold for two years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EU debt crisis ups German immigration

Figures show that immigration to Germany from countries hard hit by Europe's economic woes rose sharply in the first six months of the year. The statistical office says the number of Greek citizens moving to Germany rose by 84 per cent to about 8,900, while the number of Spaniards from January to June rose 49 per cent to 7,250. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earnings up across Canada: StatsCan

Average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees increased 1.4 per cent to $885.36 in October. Statistics Canada reports average weekly earnings were up 2.7 per cent from a year earlier. The agency says the average work week was unchanged from October 2010 at 33.0 hours. Earnings rose in every province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PIPPA AND PERILS OF 2011

THE METRO LIST

NEIL MORTON
METRO

1 **Royal wedding:** Two billion people watched Will and Kate tie the knot — and Pippa Middleton's derriere become world famous.

2 **Steve Jobs:** The visionary Apple co-founder died at age 56, having led a dramatic cultural and technological transformation.

3 **Lindsay Lohan:** Lohan salvaged a terrible year with the law — and her career — by appearing on Playboy's bestselling cover (which also made Playboy relevant again).

4 **Lady Gaga:** She arrived at the Grammys being carried in a huge egg. Which is what you do when you're trying really hard to be cool.

5 **Ashton Kutcher & Demi Moore:** They break up — and in keeping with relationship etiquette in the Social Media Age, unfollow each other on Twitter.

6 **Kim Kardashian:** The woman famous for no reason has a marriage that only lasts 72 days for some reason. Oh yeah — it was her naked yoga instructor.

7 **Weinergate:** Congressman Anthony Weiner tweets a photo of his penis by mistake, resulting in countless "wiener" jokes, a scandal — and, naturally, his resignation.

8 **Margaret Atwood:** A public feud between Atwood and Toronto city councillor Doug Ford (Mayor Rob's older bro) leads to a cheeky "Atwood for Mayor" campaign.

9 **Amy Winehouse:** Joins the "27 club," a group of seminal musicians like Kurt Cobain, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison who died at age 27.

10 **Martha Stewart:** Martha Stewart tweets, "Do you think I am hip?" That's one of the tweets of the year.

11 **Kate Gosselin:** Her reality show is cancelled, and her kids now live in peace. As one blog noted, "(The kids) know not the craven greed machine they were plugged into."

12 **Tim Tebow:** The devout Christian NFL QB with an unorthodox throwing style who people keep saying will fail just keeps winning. And Tebowmania and "Tebowing" goes viral.

13 **Charlie Sheen:** After getting fired from Two and a Half Men, the troubled Sheen launches a bizarre Violent Torpedo Of Truth tour. Thankfully, he's off whatever Kool-Aid he was on.

14 **@bronxzoocobra:** A cobra escapes a zoo and someone creates a hilarious Twitter account that goes viral, tweeting its time on the run. (Other awesome Twitter accounts like @S–tGirlsSay also go viral this year.)

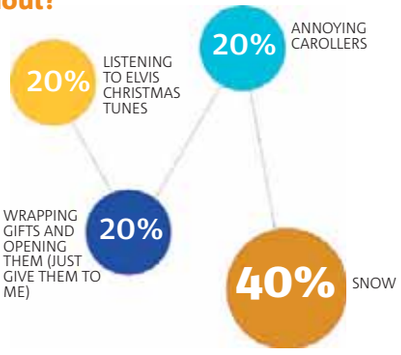
15 **Piers Morgan:** Morgan replaces the legendary Larry King on CNN but has the makings of a legend himself with his intelligent hardball-with-a-cheeky-grin Q & A style.

16 **Kissing Couple:** During the riots in Vancouver, post-NHL final, an image of a couple lying on a tear-gas-filled street having a tender kiss with riot police around gets circulated around the world — becoming one of 2011's iconic images.

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What holiday tradition could you do without?



Local tweets

- **@Real_ESPNLeBrun:** Upon further review, am told league believes Jannik Hansen goal should NOT have counted last night.
- **@Real_ESPNLeBrun:** League's feeling is that Jimmy Howard didn't have a chance to make a save. Not worth a penalty to Van but should have been no goal.
- **@Real_ESPNLeBrun:** When I say Hansen goal, of course I meant Hansen crashing into Howard and Edler scoring.
- **@VancityBuzz:** Dear @MayorGregor I think it's time #Vancouver had a NYE Fireworks celebration! bit.ly/vFeuHp RT if you agree
- **@vanhappenings:** JUST ANNOUNCED: the 92nd annual Polar Bear Swim takes place Jan. 1 at 2:30 pm at English Bay Bathhouse ow.ly/886Fh
- **@CFL:** Congrats! RT @geroysimon Young Simon commits to play college football at West Point! #CFL
- **@SharkClubParty:** Only 4 days until the World Juniors begin! We can barely contain ourselves!!! Shark Club is your IIHF WJC HQ! ;)

BACK PAGE IMAGES/REX FEATURES

The karate keeper

Goalie and 'fan' clash on pitch

AMSTERDAM. Film buffs will say he took those moves straight out of 2001 martial-arts/sports movie mashup Shaolin Soccer. This striking image shows goalie Esteban Alvarado Brown, right, of AZ Alkmaar retaliate as he is attacked by a football hooligan during the Dutch cup match between Ajax and AZ Alkmaar.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"He walked to (the hooligan) and kicked him multiple times."

BAS NIJHUIS, REFEREE, ON WHY HE SENT OFF ALVARADO

How the kung fu soccer unfolded

TIMELINE. The drunk Ajax "fan," 19, invaded the pitch and launched a flying kick towards the Costa Rican goalkeeper. Alvarado lashed out a series of his own kicks before security dragged the supporter away. After the goalie was given a red card for misconduct, Alkmaar's angry coach Gertjan Verbeek ordered his team to leave the pitch. METRO WORLD NEWS

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Synopsis

Since first being published in December 1843 Charles Dickens's story of Ebenezer Scrooge's emotional transformation from hoarder to Ho Ho-er has been presented in many forms. A Christmas Carol has been adapted into opera, ballet, a Broadway musical and even a mime show starring Marcel Marceau. On film there have been at least 28 versions of the story and dozens more for television. This week the Reel Guys have a look at the best big screen versions of the classic story.

ALL PHOTOS: HANDOUT

▶ A Christmas Carol remains a popular story to put to film — with at least 28 versions out there.

Bah, humbug!

Sim, Murray and Carrey have all played the miser who finds redemption
Crouse and Breslin debate the best movie version of A Christmas Carol

Reel Guys
RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Richard: Mark, there is only one must-see out of all the dozens of film and TV versions of the Charles Dickens classic and that's the 1951 Alastair Sim version. Nearly perfect in every way, it is a tale of redemption that confirms the fundamental spiritual nature of Christmas itself. In other words, it makes us feel good. Accept no substitutes. If, however, you've already seen it this year or you're allergic to black and white movies, there are alternatives.

MB: Richard, you are so right. The movie HAS to be in black and white to make us feel the spirit of Dickensian deprivation. It's the classic. But growing up in a Jewish household, it didn't have any importance to me as a child. I discovered it much later, and was transfixed by its narrative power and perfectly gloomy mood. May I contrast this with the Jim Carrey version? Now that's a movie with no sense of mystery, and a buffoonish interpretation of the lead character. I feel sorry for children who grow up with this bloated, CGI-laden excuse for a classic. Richard, please don't tell me you like it!

RC: Before I saw the Jim Carrey version of A Christmas Carol I wondered why remake a story that has been done so often and so well in the past. I've seen it and I'm still wondering. The weirdly lifeless animation was creepy, akin to a Christmas story performed by zombies.

MB: Let me praise Bill Murray's version Scrooged. It's far from authentic, light years away from Dickens, but it makes its points in a very modern way. Bill Murray is great in it, and the writing is sharp and satirical. Setting it in the milieu of the television industry obviously changes the mood of the original, but as long as you see the movie as an interesting and successful riff upon the original story, and not as a substitute for it, it's a great movie for the season.

RC: I agree. It's become a must see for me every year. Although I don't have to see The Muppets Christmas Carol every year, it is a treat to see Michael Caine as Scrooge. I also like the musical Scrooge with Albert Finney in the lead.

MB: I've never seen it! I sure hope they gave Tiny Tim a tap solo.

2 scene

Scene in brief

If you're experiencing a joy overload on Christmas Day, revel in some apocalyptic fare at the movie theatre. The Darkest Hour opens Dec. 25. The film follows five people in Moscow fighting an alien race who have attacked Earth via our power supply.
METRO

00-who? Daniel Craig excels away from Bond, adds second franchise with Dragon Tattoo

Top 5 actors to watch next year...

DOUGLAS BOOTH

Could the role of Romeo in the latest Romeo and Juliet turn Booth into another Leonardo DiCaprio? With a second starring role alongside Disney princess-turned-stoner Miley Cyrus in LOL..., well, look at the kid's hair. It's a little like Leo.

MICHAEL FASSBENDER

We're not going to hide our partiality to this Irish-German export, 34, who was ubiquitous in 2011 with an impressive four releases, including X-Men: First Class and Jane Eyre. His upcoming spy flick with director Steven Soderbergh, Haywire (Jan. 20), combined with all the awards-season buzz he's been getting for his performance in 2011's Shame will propel Fassbender to A-List by the time his sci-fi film Prometheus, a semi-prequel to Alien, is released in the summer (June 8).

CHRIS DIAMANTOPOULOS

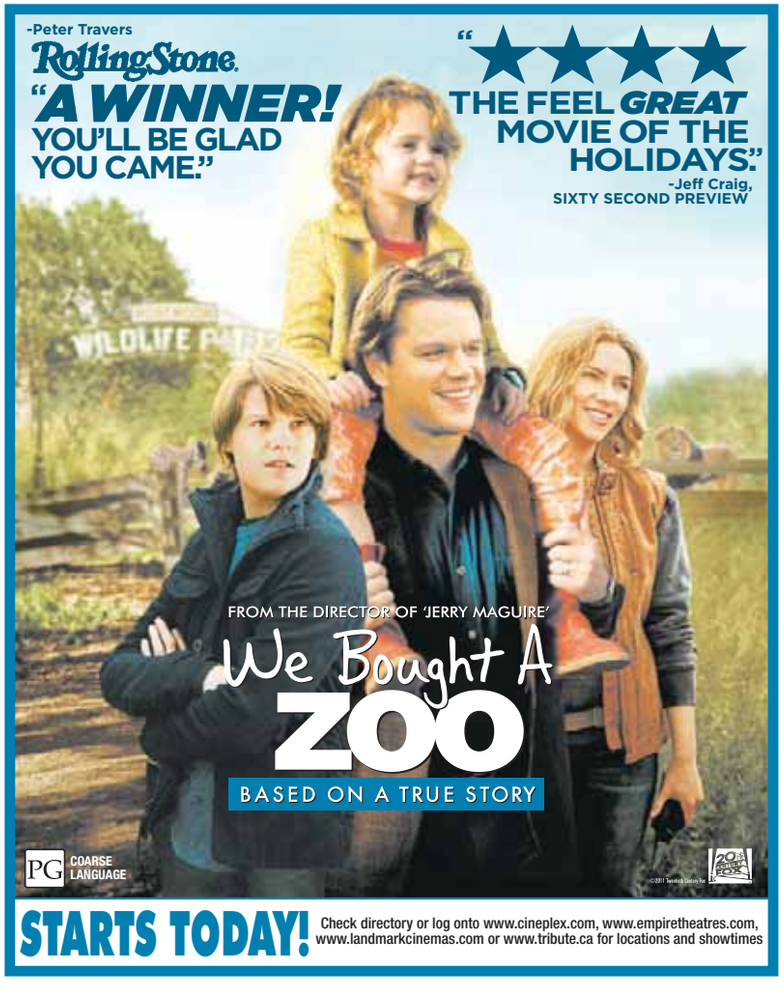
We finally learned how to spell Galifianakis, so it's about time another comedic actor with an impossibly lengthy Greek last name take the scene by storm. Audiences first got to meet D-what's-his-face on the American sitcom Up All Night but the Greco-Canadian actor will get even more exposure this spring (April 13) with the release of The Three Stooges, in which he plays Moe, the only Stooge with a passable haircut.

TAYLOR KITSCH

The Friday Night Lights star appears in two huge movies this summer: the sci-fi epic John Carter, set on Mars, and Battleship, a sci-fi version of the popular board game. Finally, he'll be known for something more than his abs.

JOSH HUTCHERSON

This 19-year-old actor has been working steadily in Hollywood, but it'll be the March 23 release of the highly anticipated film adaptation of The Hunger Games that makes him a star. While we can't promise he'll be the next Robert Pattinson — sorry, RPatz will always have a special vampire lair in our hearts — the series' rabid fanbase will give Hutcherson a fast pass to megastardom. Especially because it's a romantic lead. (For younger kids, he's also in 2012's Journey 2: The Mysterious Island.)


-Peter Travers
Rolling Stone
"A WINNER! YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU CAME."
"★★★★ THE FEEL GREAT MOVIE OF THE HOLIDAYS."
-Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'JERRY MAGUIRE'
We Bought A ZOO
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
PG COARSE LANGUAGE
STARTS TODAY!
Check directory or log onto www.cineplex.com, www.empiretheatres.com, www.landmarkcinemas.com or www.tribute.ca for locations and showtimes

Top 5 ladies to look out for

1 GINA CARANO

How does a mixed martial-artist end up as the lead in a Steven Soderbergh indie spy thriller? And with a supporting cast that includes acting heavyweights Ewan McGregor, Michael Fassbender and Michael Douglas? She kicks ass, obviously.

Did you know?

- "It's so satisfying watching her beat the (expletive) out of the cast," Soderbergh told The Playlist blog about Carano.
- He caught her on TV one night and thought, Why has no one made a movie with her?

2 ELIZABETH OLSEN

The Olsen Twins' younger sister got a major headstart in 2011 with her impressive performance in indie cult film Martha Marcy May Marlene and this thoughtful, wide-eyed actress will continue the momentum with Liberal Arts, written and directed by How I Met Your Mother star Josh Radnor. She'll also appear in the horror flick Silent House (March 9) and paranormal thriller Red Lights alongside Robert De Niro and Cillian Murphy.

3 LILY COLLINS

The spawn of Sussudio impresario Phil Collins already had her coming out party in 2011 with roles in Abduction and Priest. This year the 22-year-old has a starring role in Tarsem Singh's lighthearted take on the Snow White fairytale in Mirror Mirror (March 16th) co-starring Julia Roberts, along with prominent roles in The English Teacher co-starring Julianne Moore and sci-fi film The Mortal Instrument.

4 ANDREA RISEBOROUGH

Thank the Material Girl herself, Madonna, for bringing this English Rose to the forefront in 2012. Riseborough will start off the year with her lauded performance in Madge-directed feature W.E. (Feb. 3) as controversial paramour to King Edward the 8th, Wallis Simpson. She'll stay at the forefront with IRA thriller Shadow Dancer, as well as Disconnect, co-starring True Blood babe Alexander Skarsgard and Jason Bateman — finishing it off with English crime thriller Welcome to the Punch.

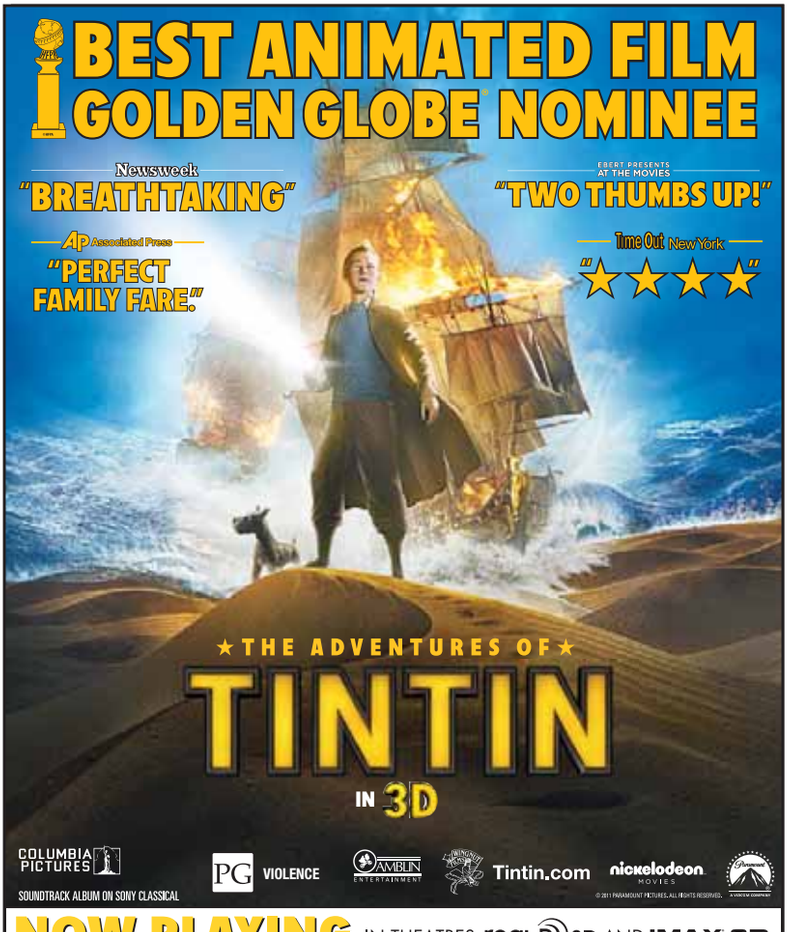
5 TAYLOR SCHILLING

Oh, to star in a Nicholas Sparks book adaptation. Though she may've been the lead in failed TV show Mercy and dead-on-arrival Atlas Shrugged: Part One as lead character Dagny Taggart, somebody in Hollywood has some faith in this American 27-year-old. She's been cast opposite Zac Efron in The Lucky One (April 20), a romance about an Iraq war veteran who goes in search of the woman whose photo became his good luck charm while fighting in the war. Schilling will also star in Ben Affleck-directed political thriller Argo in 2012.

RICHARD ROEPER
"ONE OF THE BEST PERFORMANCES OF THE YEAR IN ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF 2011."

"CHARLIZE THERON IS A COMIC FORCE OF NATURE."
Rolling Stone
Peter Travers
"★★★★★"
San Francisco Chronicle
Mick LaSalle
CHARLIZE THERON
YOUNG ADULT
PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND MANDATE PICTURES PRESENT A MR. MUDD PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH RIGHT OF WAY FILMS AND DENVER & DELILAH FILMS A FILM BY JASON REITMAN
CHARLIZE THERON "YOUNG ADULT" PATTON OSWALT PATRICK WILSON ELIZABETH REASER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NATHAN KAHANE JOHN MALKOVICH STEVEN RALES HELEN ESTABROOK
PRODUCED BY LIANNE HALFON RUSSELL SMITH DIABLO CODY MASON NOVICK JASON REITMAN WRITTEN BY DIABLO CODY DIRECTED BY JASON REITMAN
MANDATE PICTURES
PG COARSE AND SEXUAL LANGUAGE
YoungAdultMovie.com

NOW PLAYING CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES



NOW PLAYING IN THEATRES, real 3D AND IMAX 3D
CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES

Movie reviews

See it twice | See it now | Worth watching | Yawn | Don't bother

We Bought a Zoo
Genre: Comedy
Director: Cameron Crowe
Stars: Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church

Cameron Crowe might not seem on surface the first choice for a family friendly comedy, but a closer look at his work — from Almost Famous to Jerry Maguire — proves otherwise. Crowe's pictures almost always deal with family situations, mostly unorthodox, but always gripped by truth and sentimentality. His adaptation of the best-selling book, We Bought a Zoo, is really just another Crowe joint: melancholy yet joyous, optimistic and truthful. Matt Damon is in fine form as the still-aching widow who moves his two children to a dilapidated country zoo and he's matched by Scarlett Johansen as a feisty zookeeper. CHRIS ALEXANDER

War Horse
Genre: Drama
Director: Steven Spielberg
Stars: Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson

A book-turned-play-turned Steven Spielberg epic, War Horse is a manipulated but multilayered telling of the First World War through the eyes of a tempestuous thoroughbred. Combining several characters from both sides of the battle, Spielberg overextends his focus on sentimentality but as he's proved in Saving Private Ryan, nobody crafts cinematic combat scenes better and the auteur succeeds most notably with a stunningly filmed cavalry charge that outlines the harrowing carnage of war. STEVE GOW

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
Genre: Thriller
Director: Tomas Alfredson
Stars: Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Tom Hardy

Given its dense source material, it's not surprising that this British thriller puts the audience to work — which is a refreshing change of pace for a genre that is home to much surface-level material. Based on a classic 1974 book of the same name by John LeCarre, Tinker observes the highest levels of British Intelligence at MI6. When it becomes clear that someone in the inner circle has been a mole for the Russians, one forcibly retired agent (Gary Oldman) is asked to investigate the men he'd worked closest with. This film does not fit the definition of what some would deem to be a "spy film." The story comes out through the dialogue, not some easy voice-over that spoon-feeds salient points. HEIDI PATALANO

Carnage
Genre: Comedy
Director: Roman Polanski
Stars: Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz

The aptly named Carnage is Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf for our allegedly enlightened times, with all the discomfort and none of the sex. Penelope and Michael Longstreet invite Nancy and Alan Cowan to their Manhattan apartment to discuss a schoolyard incident between their sons which left one "disfigured." The veneer of good manners and cooperation flames out, devolving into screaming, insulting, vomiting, hitting, drunkenness and an inability to leave the premises. Claustrophobic, intense, panic-inducing and hilarious, Polanski has a winner.
ANNE BRODIE

ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR
Los Angeles Times
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
AFI
Entertainment Weekly
FOX TV
"THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO' GIVES OFF A RIPELY KINKY, MENACING GLOW. IT SET A MOOD OF EVIL DIPPED IN BLACK RUBBER. FINCHER IS NOT JUST A GREAT DIRECTOR—HE'S AN ARTIST WITH THE EYES OF A VOYEUR, AND HE HAS MADE 'THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO' INTO AN ELECTRIFYING MOVIE
BY TURNING THE AUDIENCE INTO ADDICTS OF THE FORBIDDEN, LOOKING FOR THE SICK AND TWISTED THINGS WE CAN'T SEE. 'THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO' IS A BRILLIANT FRANCHISE MOVIE. GRADE A"
Entertainment Weekly
x OWEN GLEIBERMAN
A DAVID FINCHER FILM
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO
18A SEXUAL VIOLENCE
#DRAGONTATTOO
NOW PLAYING Check Theatre Directory or SonyPicturesReleasing.ca for Locations and Showtimes
SONY make.believe

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YEAR IN REVIEW
A THEATRESPORTS LOOK AT THE YEAR THAT WAS.
BC PLACE RE-OPENS WITH HOLE IN ROOF
WILL & KATE'S GREAT CANADIAN HONEYMOON
GREECE CAUSES MARKETS TO SLIP
CHARLIE SHEEN SAYS HE'S NOT 'BI-POLAR' JUST 'BI-WINNING'!
VANCOUVER THEATRESPORTS PARODIES LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL HEADLINES!
WHAT WAS NEW?
WHO WAS HOT?
WHO GOT ARRESTED?
Show info & Tickets: www.vtsl.com
THE IMPROV CENTRE, GRANVILLE ISLAND
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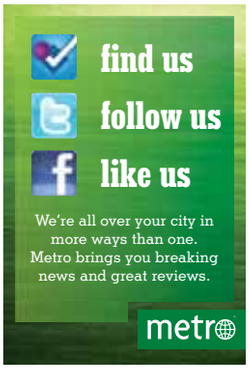
CITY OF VANCOUVER
VANCOUVER THEATRESPORTS LEAGUE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ADVERTORIAL

67 Ways to Lighten up the Holiday Season

58. Invite some FRIENDS to cheer on Team Canada at the IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP. Puck drops Dec. 26th at 1:30pm MT/3:30pm EST.

59. CELEBRATE New Year's Eve in every TIMEZONE.

60. Stay out all night, volunteering at a SOUP KITCHEN.

61. 55% of Metro readers say that on New Year's Eve they would much rather Celebrate with a relaxing evening at home.** Whatever you're up to, ENJOY RESPONSIBLY!

62. Start a new HOLIDAY tradition with an ugly pants party.

63. Instead of pushing through the Boxing Day shopping crowds, CARVE through the snow SKIING or SNOWBOARDING.

64. Make NEW dishes out of your holiday LEFTOVERS to serve at your New Year's Eve party.

65. FINALLY learn all the lyrics to AULD LANG SYNE.

66. Make 2012 the year of the Kept resolution. Set realistic goals for yourself and ask FRIENDS and FAMILY to help you achieve them.

67. Instead of Champagne, Why not WELCOME THE NEW YEAR with Molson Canadian 67?

Molson Canadian 67 is a premium light beer specially brewed to 67 calories per 341 ml bottle. That's about half the calories of wines or mixed drinks.* Want to add to our list? Share your tips with us at facebook.com/molsoncanadian67

Must be legal drinking age. *Calculations based on average serving (6 oz glass of wine and single serving of mixed drink). Details at molsoncanadian67.ca
**Source: Metropolitan Panel. 462 English, 154 French respondents. December 2011.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 23 TO THURS., DEC. 29. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Arabia (STC) Fri 12-2-4 Sat 12-2 Mon 2-4 Tue-Thu 12-2-4
Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Fri 1-3 Sat 1 Mon-Thu 1-3
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun

DENMAN CINEMAS
1779 Comox, 604-558-3456

Arthur Christmas (G) A.M. Mon-Wed 11
Café de Flore (STC) Fri-Thu 2:50
Margin Call (14A) Fri 7 Sun-Tue 7 Thu 7
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Wed 1 Thu 12
The Skin I Live In (18A) Fri 9:10 Mon-Thu 9:10
Surviving Progress (G) Fri-Thu 5:10

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri 4-7-9:40 Sat 1:20-4-7 Sun 4-7 Mon 1:20-4-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 4-7-9:40

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

The Artist (G) Fri 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:20 Sat 1:30-4:15-7:10 Sun 4:15-7:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:20
The Descendants (PG) Fri 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:50 Sat 1:45-4:30-7:20 Sun 4:30-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri 12:20-3:30-6:40-10 Sat 12:20-3:30-6:40 Sun 3:30-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-10
Hugo 3D (G) Fri 1-3:45-6:50-9:30 Sat 1-3:45-6:50 Sun 3:45-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:30
My Week With Marilyn (PG) Fri 1:15-4:7-9:10 Sat 1:15-4:7 Sun 4-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:7-9:10

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Happy Feet Two (G) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:45-9:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
Immortals (18A) Dolby Stereo Fri 7-9:35 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 5:55-8:40
J. Edgar (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:35-9:15 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 5:25-8:25
Melancholia (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20
The Sitter (14A) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:30-9:25 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 5:45-8:10
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:50-9:10 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 5:50-8:35
The Way (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:55-9:40 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 5:35-8:15

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat 1:30-4:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sun 7:15-9:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:45 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat 12:30-3:30 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sun 6:30-9:45 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:45
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 1-4-7-10 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat 1-4 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sun 7-10 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 1-4-7-10

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

Age of Consent (STC) Fri 6:30 Tue 6:30 Wed 4:30
Four Adventures of Reinette and Mirabelle (STC) Fri 8:30 Mon 4:30 Tue 8:30 Wed 6:30
The Last Picture Show (STC) Mon 6:30 Tue 4 Wed 8:20 Thu 4
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Sun
A Place in the Sun (STC) Thu 6:30
Suddenly, Last Summer (STC) Thu 8:45

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (14A) Fri 1-4-7-9:45 Sat 1-4-7 Sun 4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 1-4-7-9:45

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri 1-4-7-9:45 Sat 1-4-7 Sun 4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 1-4-7-9:45

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

A Christmas Story (STC) Fri 12
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri 4:15-7-9:45 Sat-Mon 1:30-4:15-7-9:45 Tue-Thu 4:15-7-9:45

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:30-3:30-4-7-7:30-10:30-10:55
Hansel and Gretel: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Thu 11
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:25-10:20 Mon-Tue 11:05-1:45-4:30-7:25-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:25-10:20
The Magic Flute: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Wed 11
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Fri 12:45-1:15-3:50-4:35-7:05-7:45-10:15-10:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:45-1:30-3:50-4:35-7:05-7:45-10:15-10:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 11-1-1:55-4:05-4:55-7:10-8-10:15-11:05
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri 1-2-4:05-5-7:15-8-10:25-11 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-2:10-4:05-5-7:15-8-10:25-11 No Passes Mon-Thu 11:35-1:15-2:25-4:20-5:20-7:25-8:20-10:35-11:15
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 11:15-2:05-5-8:05-11
We Bought a Zoo (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:45-4:35-7:35-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:35-10:30

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Carmen Jones (STC) Mon 7:55 Tue-Thu 3:15
A Christmas Carol (STC) Fri 6
Cinderella: Birmingham Royal Ballet (STC) Fri-Sat 3 Mon 3 Tue 6:30
Flamenco, Flamenco (STC) Wed-Thu 7:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun
Sing Your Song (STC) Fri 7:45 Mon 6 Tue 1:15 Wed-Thu 1:15-5:15

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri-Sat 1 Sun-Thu 3:50-7-9:40 Fri 3:50-7-9:40 Sat 3:50-7 Mon-Thu 1
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:30-4-7:15 No Passes Sun 4-7:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-4-7:15
Hugo (G) Fri 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat 12:35-3:30-6:30 Sun 3:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:30
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sat 12:50
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 4:05-6:50-10:10 Sat 4:05-6:50 Sun-Thu 10:10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:55 No Passes Sat 12:40-3:40-6:45 No Passes Sun 3:40-6:50-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:55
War Horse (PG) Sun 3:25-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 12:10-3:25-6:40-10
Young Adult (PG) Fri 1:10-4:15-7:30-9:50 Sat 1:10-4:15-7:30 Sun 4:15-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:30-9:50

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:20-9:40 Sat 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:20 Sun 4:20-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:20-9:40
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sat 1:10
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 3:50-6:40-9:20 Sat 3:50-6:40 Sun 3:50 Mon-Thu 1:10
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun 4-6:40-9:25 Mon-Thu 1-4-6:40-9:25
The Descendants (PG) Fri 12:50-3:40-7:10-9:50 Sat 12:50-3:40-7:10 Sun 3:40-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:10-9:50
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Fri 12:30-1-3:30-4-6:30-7-9:30-10 No Passes Sat 12:30-1-3:30-4-6:30-7 No Passes Sun 3:55-6:30-7-9:30-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-3:55-6:30-7-9:30-10
We Bought a Zoo (PG) No Passes Fri 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:45 No Passes Sat 1:20-4:10-6:50 No Passes Sun 4:10-6:50-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:45

RICHMOND

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11-1:40-4:20-7:10-10:10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri-Thu 11:15-11:40-1:30-2:15-4:4:45-7:10-9:45
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 11:05-1:45-4:30-7:20-10
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun-Thu 11:50-2:25-5-7:55-10:55
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Sat 12:55-3:55-7:05-9:55 Sun-Thu 3:55-7:05-9:55
Don 2 (STC) Fri-Thu 11:20-3:10-6:55-10:35
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-3:15-7:10:45 No Passes Fri-Thu 11-2:45-6:30-10:15
Hansel and Gretel: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Thu 11
Happy Feet Two (G) Sun-Thu 11:25-2:10-4:55
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Sat 11:25-2:10-4:55-7:35-10:10
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:20-10:25
The Magic Flute: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Wed 11
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15-11:15
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11-2-5-8-11
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sat 11:10-1:55-4:40-7:25-10:20 Sun-Thu 7:25-10:20
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:35-12:15-3-3:45-6:45-7:30-10:20-10:50
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sat 7:50-10:55 Sun-Thu 1
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 12:05-3:20-6:35-9:35 Sun-Thu 6:35-9:35
War Horse (PG) No Passes Sun-Thu 12-3:30-6:50-10:25
We Bought a Zoo (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-3:05-6:50-10:05
Young Adult (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7:45-10:35

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:40-4:50-7-9:05
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-2:45-4:45-6:45-8:35

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 12-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri-Sat 11-1:10-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:35 Sun 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:35 Mon-Thu 11-1:10-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:35
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sat 12:15-2:45-5:20
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun 1:15-3:40-6-8:20-10:40 Mon-Thu 11-1:15-3:40-6-8:20-10:40
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:30-10:55
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Thu 12
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 7:15-10:25 No Passes Fri-Sat 11-2-5-8:05-11:10 No Passes Sun 2-5-8:05-11:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 11-2-5-8:05-11:10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-5:15-8-10:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:45
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sat 11:30-1:45-4:05-6:15-8:30-10:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 7:55-10:40
War Horse (PG) No Passes Sun-Thu 12:45-4-7:20-10:40
We Bought a Zoo (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:55-

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See Chevrolet dealer for details. ‡3.99% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Financing Services for 72 months on new or demonstrator 2012 Chevrolet Orlando LS. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 3.99% APR, the monthly payment is $156.41 for 72 months. Cost of borrowing is $1,261.25, total obligation is $11,261.25. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. Freight ($1,495) included. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and fees not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Offers apply to qualified retail customers only. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ¥No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest runs from November 1, 2011 to January 16, 2012. Credit Awards include applicable taxes and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 or 2012 MY GM vehicle delivered from dealer stock, excluding Chevrolet Volt on or before January 16, 2012. 20 Vehicle Awards consist of either a 2012 GMC Terrain SLE2 FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels, Chrome Appearance Package and Rear Cargo Security Cover or a 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels. Factory order may be required for Vehicle Awards. Approximate retail value of each Vehicle Award is Equinox / Terrain [$32,775 MSRP / $32,480 MSRP] CDN, including freight. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Correct answer to skill testing question required to claim an award. Some examples of odds are: to receive a $1,000 base award, 1 in 1; to receive a total award of $1,200, 1 in 30; to receive a total award of $10,000, 1 in 10,000; to receive a Vehicle Award, 1 in 20,000 (total awards and vehicle awards include the $1,000 base award). See your GM dealer, visit gm.ca or call 1-800-GM-DRIVE for full contest rules. ▼▼To qualify for GMCL's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must: turn in a 2005 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured in your name, or under a small business name, for the last 3 months. GMCL will provide eligible consumers with an incentive to be used towards the purchase or lease of a new eligible 2011 or 2012 MY Buick/Chevrolet/GMC/Cadillac vehicle delivered between October 1, 2011 and January 3, 2012. Incentive amount ranges from $500 to $3,000 (tax inclusive), depending on model purchased; incentive may not be combined with certain other offers. 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Your actual fuel consumption may vary. †Euro NCAP ratings are part of the European New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP) (www.euroncap.com). 2012 Chevrolet Orlando equipped with the 1.8L petrol engine tested during 2011 calendar year testing. ^OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery) wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's terms and Conditions, Privacy Policy and details and system limitations. Additional information can be found in the OnStar Owner's Guide.

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220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Arthur Christmas (G) Sun-Thu 4:30-7:05-9:35
Immortals (18A) Fri 4:25-7:10-9:50 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:10 Sun-Thu 4:25-7:10-9:50
J. Edgar (PG) Fri 4:10-7:05-9:55 Sat 1:15-4:10-7:05 Sun-Thu 9:25
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 4:35-7:20-9:35 Sat 1:35-4:35-7:20 Sun-Thu 4:35-7:15
The Muppets (G) Fri 4:20-6:55-9:30 Sat 1:30-4:20-6:55 Sun-Thu 4:20-6:55-9:30
The Sitter (14A) Sun-Thu 4:40-7:20-9:55
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 4:30-7:15-9:45 Sat 1:40-4:30-7:15 Sun-Thu 9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 4:15-7:9:40 Sat 1:20-4:15-7 Sun-Thu 4:15-7-9:45
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 4:40-7:25-10 Sat 1:45-4:40-7:25 Sun-Thu 4:45-7:25

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:35
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri-Thu 11:30-12-1:45-2:15-4-4:30-6:15-8:45
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:25-6:50-9:25
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Sat 11:45-3-6:30-9:15 Sun-Thu 12:45-4-7-10:30
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-4-6:45-7:30-10:10-10:55 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-5-8:45
Hansel and Gretel: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Thu 11
Hugo 3D (G) Fri-Sat 11:50-3:10-6:35-9:30 Sun-Thu 3:10-6:35-9:30
The Magic Flute: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Wed 11
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-1:15-4:10-4:35-7:15-8:10-25-11 No Passes Fri-Sat 12:15-3:45-6:50-10 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-10
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:05-6:45-9:25 Sun-Tue 12 Wed-Thu 1:20
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-6:55-9:50 Fri-Sat 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:45-7-9:55 No Passes Fri-Sat 1-1:30-4-4:30-7:10-7:40-10:15-10:45 No Passes Sun-Thu 1-4:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:45-10:50
War Horse (PG) No Passes Sun-Thu 12:10-3:45-7:10:25 No Passes Sun-Thu 12-3:45-7:30-10:45
We Bought a Zoo (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:20-3:30-7:10-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:55-7:10-10:15
Young Adult (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:40

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri 1:30-3:45-7 Mon-Thu 1:30-3:45-7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Sun

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Arthur Christmas (G) Sun-Thu 2:50-4:45
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30
Hugo (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-6:40
Immortals (18A) Fri-Thu 8:45
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sat 2:50-4:45-9:05 Sun-Thu 9:05
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Thu 1-5:05
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 2:50-7-9:15

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri-Sat 11:45-1:10-2:15-3:30-4:30-5:50-8:15-10:35 Sun-Thu 12:50-1:10-3:20-3:30-5:50-8:10
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sat 11:50
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:35-4:55-7:35-10:10
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun-Thu 11:55-2:20-4:40-7:35-10:20
The Dirty Picture (PG) Fri-Sat 12:25-4-7:25-10:50
Don 2 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:45-7:15-10:45
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:50-7:20-10:50
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-1:20-3:25-4:25-7:10-7:55-10:25-11
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:40
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7-7:45-10-10:55
The Sitter (14A) Sun-Thu 10:35
War Horse (PG) No Passes Sun-Thu 12:45-4-7:25-10:35
We Bought a Zoo (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:30

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:30
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:30-6:15-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 3:30-6:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 3:30-6:15-9
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:15-2:30-4:45-7-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 12:15-2:30-4:45-7 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4:45-7-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:15-2:30-4:45-7-9:15
Arthur Christmas (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-4:25
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:05-7:30-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 4:05-7:30
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4:05-7:30-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:30-10:10
Don 2 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:05-4-7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 4-7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:05-4-7:45
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 1-4:30-8 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 4:30-8 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 1-4:30-8
Happy Feet Two (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:25
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12-1:15-3:15-4:15-6:30-7:20-9:45-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 12-1:15-3:15-4:15-6:30-7:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 4:15-7:20-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20
The Muppets (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:05
New Year's Eve (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:35-7:35-10:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 4:35-7:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 4:35-7:35-10:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 12:45-3:45-6:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 3:45-6:45-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-10
The Sitter (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:30-4:25-7:40-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1:30-4:25-7:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 7:40-9:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3-6:25-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 3-6:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 3-6:25-9:25
War Horse (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 3:15-6:30-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45
We Bought a Zoo (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:25-3:05-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 12:25-3:05-6:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 3:05-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:25-3:05-6:20-9:10

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterontheatres.com

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri 7:30 Sat 2 Mon 2-7:30 Tue-Thu 7:30
My Week With Marilyn (PG) Fri 7-9 Sat 2:10 Mon 2:10-7-9 Tue-Thu 7-9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterontheatres.com

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri 2:30-7:30-9:30 Sat 2:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri 2:20-7:20-9:05 Sat 2:20 Mon-Thu 2:20-7:20-9:05
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri 2-7-9:35 Sat 2 Mon-Thu 2-7-9:35
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri 2:10-7:10-9:40 Sat 2:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:10-7:10-9:40
The Sitter (14A) Mon-Thu 2:30-7:30-9:10

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 12:35-4:05-7:15-9:55 No Passes Sat 12:35-4:05-7:15 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:35-4:05-7:15-9:55
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri 11:45-12:45-2:15-3:45-4:50-7:40-10:10 Sat 11:45-12:45-2:15-3:45-4:50-7:40 Sun-Thu 11:45-12:45-2:15-3:45-4:50-7:40-10:10
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri 1:10-4:20-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:10-4:20-7:05 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:05-10:05
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:25
The Descendants (PG) Fri 12:20-3:35-6:35-9:35 Sat 12:20-3:35-6:35 Sun-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:35
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri 11:30-3:10-6:50-10:30 No Passes Sat 11:30-3:10-6:50 No Passes Sun-Thu 11:30-3:10-6:50-10:30 No Passes Fri 12-3:40-7:20-10:55 No Passes Sat 12-3:40-7:20 No Passes Sun-Thu 12-3:40-7:20-10:55
Hansel and Gretel: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Thu 11
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Thu 11:55
Hugo 3D (G) Fri 11:35-3-6:30-9:40 Sat 11:35-3-6:40 Sun 11:35-3-6:40-9:40 Mon 11:35-3-6:35-9:40 Tue-Thu 11:35-3-6:30-9:40
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:25 Sat 1:35-4:30-7:30
The Magic Flute: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Wed 11
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Fri 12:30-3:15-4-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:35 No Passes Sat 12:30-3:15-3:45-6:30-7 No Passes Sun 12:30-3:15-3:45-6:30-7-9:50-10:15 No Passes Mon 12:30-3:15-4-6:30-7:10-9:50-10:35 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:30-3:15-4-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:35
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri 11-2-5-8-11 No Passes Sat 1-4:15-7:30 No Passes Sun 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 11-2-5-8-11
The Muppets (G) Fri 12:25-3:25-6:55-10:10 Sat 12:25-3:25-6:55 Sun-Thu 12:25-3:25-6:55-10:10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 3:50-7:25-10:20 Sat 3:50-7:25 Sun-Thu 3:50-7:25-10:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri 12:10-1-3:30-4:15-7-7:35-10:15-10:45 No Passes Sat 12:10-1-3:30-4:15-7-7:35 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:10-1-3:30-4:15-7-7:35-10:15-10:45
The Sitter (14A) Fri 1:55-4:35-7:45-10:40 Sat 1:55-4:35-7:45 Sun-Thu 1:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:45-9:45 Sat 6:45 Sun-Thu 6:45-9:45
War Horse (PG) No Passes Sun-Thu 11:50-3:20-7:10:20
We Bought a Zoo (PG) No Passes Fri 12:55-3:55-7:30-10:35 No Passes Sat 12:55-3:55-7:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:30-10:35
Young Adult (PG) Fri 1:25-4:25-7:10 Sat 1:25-4:25-7 Sun-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:10

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ON NOW AT YOUR BC CHEVROLET DEALERS. Chevrolet.ca 1-800-GM-DRIVE. Chevrolet is a brand of General Motors of Canada. ^/†/♦/✪Offers apply to the purchase of a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado 2500/3500 HD(R7A), Crew Cab 4WD LS (R7D) and Extended Cab 4WD LS (R7D) equipped as described. Freight included ($1,450). License, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Offer available to retail customers in Canada between November 1, 2011 and January 16, 2012. Limited quantities of 2011 models available. See dealer for details. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers, and are subject to change without notice. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the BC Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only. Dealer trade may be required. GMCL Ally Credit or TD Financing Services may modify, extend or terminate this offer in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See Chevrolet dealer for details. †0.99% purchase financing offered on approved credit by Ally Credit for 48 months on new or demonstrator 2011 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab 4WD LS & 2011 Chevrolet Silverado Ext Cab 4WD LS. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0.99% APR, the monthly payment is $212.57 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is$203.43, total obligation is $10,203.43. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. Freight ($1,450) included. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and fees not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Offers apply to qualified retail customers only. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. ♦$7,000/$9,250 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit available on 2011 Chevrolet Silverado 2500/3500 HD and Silverado 1500 Crew/Ext Cab 4WD LS (tax exclusive) for retail customers only. Other cash credits available on most models. See your GM dealer for details. ŸNo purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest runs from November 1, 2011 to January 16, 2012. Credit Awards include applicable taxes and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 or 2012 MY GM vehicle delivered from dealer stock, excluding Chevrolet Volt on or before January 16, 2012. 20 Vehicle Awards consist of either a 2012 GMC Terrain SLE2 FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels, Chrome Appearance Package and Rear Cargo Security Cover or a 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels. Factory order may be required for Vehicle Awards. Approximate retail value of each Vehicle Award is Equinox / Terrain $32,775 MSRP / $32,480 MSRP CDN, including freight. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Correct answer to skill testing question required to claim an award. Some examples of odds are: to receive a $1,000 base award, 1 in 1; to receive a total award of $1,200, 1 in 30; to receive a total award of $10,000, 1 in 10,000; to receive a Vehicle Award, 1 in 20,000 (total awards and vehicle awards include the $1,000 base award). See your GM dealer, visit gm.ca or call 1-800-GM-DRIVE for full contest rules. ▼Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2011 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ▼▼To qualify for GMCL's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must: turn in a 2005 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured in your name, or under a small business name, for the last 3 months. GMCL will provide eligible consumers with an incentive to be used towards the purchase or lease of a new eligible 2011 or 2012 MY Buick/Chevrolet/GMC/Cadillac vehicle delivered between October 1, 2011 and January 3, 2012. Incentive amount ranges from $500 to $3,000 (tax inclusive), depending on model purchased. Incentive may not be combined with certain other offers. By participating in GMCL's Cash For Clunkers program your vehicle will not be eligible for any trade-in value. See your participating GM dealer for additional program details. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate program in whole or in part at any time without notice. ^2010 Chevrolet Silverado with the 5.3L engine and 6 speed transmission and competitive fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2010 Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Excludes hybrids and other GM models. ^^See Chevrolet dealer for conditions and details.

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Is Jamie Bell looking for a ring?

▶ Jamie Bell and Rachel Wood

The rekindled romance must be working, because Jamie Bell and Evan Rachel Wood are reportedly thinking about marriage.

"They have been shopping for rings for at least a month," a source tells Us Weekly.

And the two certainly aren't afraid of commitment, as they reportedly got matching tattoos during their initial courtship in 2006.

"Evan and Jamie were really young and just getting going in their careers when they first met and they just weren't ready," another source tells Radar Online.

"Now that they are older and both excelling in their professional lives, I think they feel ready to take their relationship to the next level."

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@John_Lithgow

OMG. In my next role I need to speak Chinese! Curious?

@kevin_nealon

Kim Jung Un has some small shoes to fill.

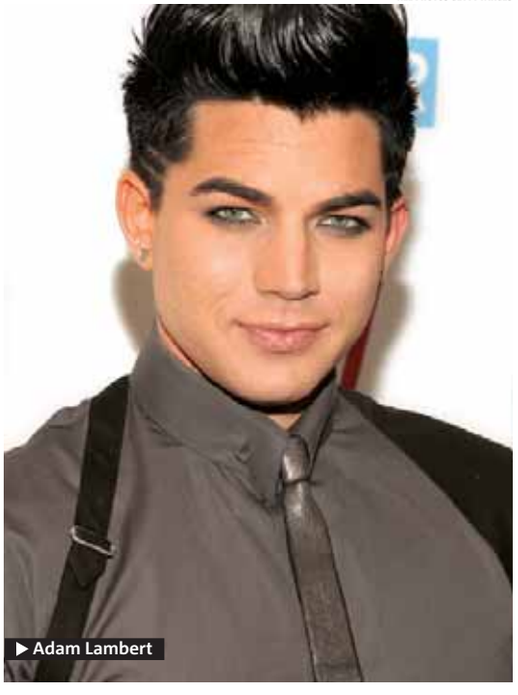
@ThatKevinSmith

Perfect cheap-yet-personal last minute gift for a beloved Tweeter in your life? Make a book of their Tweets

Just because he wears lots of eyeliner...

Adam Lambert gets into a gay bar brawl in Helsinki

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES


▶ Adam Lambert

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Well, this is awesome: Former American Idol star Adam Lambert was arrested and briefly jailed in Finland after reportedly getting into a gay bar brawl with his boyfriend, Finnish Big Brother star Sauli Koskinen, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Lambert is in Helsinki to spend Christmas with Koskinen's family, and the couple was out drinking with Finnish beauty queen and ex-Miss Helsinki Sofia Ruusila when an argument between the two men turned violent, causing them to be kicked out of the bar.

Their fight continued in the street, where Lambert reportedly hit Ruusila by mistake, she told a Finnish entertainment channel. Lambert and Koskinen were arrested and questioned for several hours before being released Thursday afternoon.

Finnish beauty queens, gay bar fights, jail time — and here you thought you'd have an interesting Christmas break if your mother had two glasses of wine instead of her usual one.

Adam Lambert for the win!

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HOLIDAY 2011

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gift guide

THE BEST IN TABLETS FOR THE TECH-LOVER
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A ROUNDUP OF LAST-MINUTE GIFTS FOR ALL
pages 33-35, 40 & 42

GET IN THE SPIRIT WITH THESE HOLIDAY DRINKS
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Keeping a tab on technology

Flat, hard packages will be welcome this year. Tablet computers are extremely popular, and electronic reading devices such as the Kindle have matured and come down in price.

Which one to get? That's mostly a matter of your budget. The iPad and other full-blown tablets are more expensive, but they do virtually everything better. Consider pooling money from friends or family for a better device.

If you have more than $300 to spend, go for one of these full-size tablets. They have colour screens that are about nine inches diagonally, and they have built-in cameras.

JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

❄ The Apple iPad 2.

KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

❄ A model plays a game on Sony's new Tablet S during a launch event in Tokyo.

CHIANG YING-YING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

❄ The Asus Eee Pad Transformer.

Apple 16GB iPad 2 ($498.99 at Future Shop)

The device that made tablet computing mainstream still reigns, outselling all others combined. It's thinner than competing tablets and has access to an unparalleled array of applications: Half a million, of which 140,000 are adapted for the iPad's 9.7-inch screen. That means more good games, more useful reference apps and more entertainment options. The range of third-party book apps also means the iPad beats dedicated e-readers at their own game by giving users the ability to read books purchased from any store. The large screen displays documents comfortably.

Sony S1 16GB Tablet ($399.99 at Best Buy)

There are a slew of tablets from Samsung, Sony, LG and other manufacturers built around Google Inc.'s Android software. From a hardware standpoint, they are not much different from the iPad, though most of them are thicker, and they are available in a range of sizes.

The Tablet S stands out by including an infrared emitter, which makes it usable as a large universal remote control. It also plays some PlayStation games. It has a 9.4-inch screen, slightly smaller than the iPad's. It runs the latest version of Android, which is specially designed for tablets and is slick.

ASUS 10.1" Eee Pad Transformer, 16GB ($346 at Wal-Mart)

The Transformer is a reasonably priced Android tablet that doubles as a "netbook," or small laptop, if you buy an accessory keyboard dock for $109. You can get an accessory keyboard for any tablet, but the Transformer's attaches securely, and the combination folds up like a laptop. The keyboard has a touchpad, extra ports and an additional power pack, which prolongs battery life.

JIM SULLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

❄ The new Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet.

For those willing to travel

If you only want to spend $200 US to $250 US, go for one of these e-reader/tablet hybrids, which aren't yet available in Canada. They add movies, games and other applications to the e-reader's capabilities, so they are not just for bookworms.

Amazon Kindle Fire ($199 US)

The Fire is Amazon's first colour Kindle. It runs a highly modified, user-friendly version of Android. The selection of apps is smaller than for other Android tablets, however. Notable inclusions are Netflix, Hulu and Comixology, a comic-book reader.

Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet ($249 US)

The bookstore's answer to the Kindle Fire is an updated version of last year's Nook Color, a solid and successful e-reader. The Tablet has more memory than the Color or the Kindle Fire, and you can add even more.

AMAZON.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

❄ The Amazon Kindle Touch 3G.

If your budget is limited to $150, you will be tempted by some low-end colour tablets. But giving one away is like giving away a lump of coal: The colour touch screens that go into sub-$200 devices look bad and have problems responding to fingers.

Instead, get one of these lightweight, quality e-readers with black-and-white "electronic ink" screens for the bookworm in your life.

Amazon Kindle Touch 3G ($149 US)

Amazon still has a variety of monochrome Kindles, including its first touch-screen model. The screen is more legible than colour screens in bright daylight and uses very little power. But it's slow to respond, making navigation tedious. The lack of colour takes the joy out of children's books, magazines and comics. The device's touch sensitivity does make navigation easier.

Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch ($99 US)

This slim, light e-reader is very similar to the $99 non-3G Kindle Touch. Barnes & Noble's version has two advantages: It doesn't display advertising, and it can load books from other bookstores, including Google Books. It can't load Kindle books, though.

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TORI.XO Shoreline Bangle, $220, available at torixo.com.

Astrid Necklace, $40, available at Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

Lindy Ring,$19.50, available at Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

TORI.XO Chantilly Ring, $95, available at torixo.com.

Jewel Box, $16.99, available at HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Swirl Ring, $24, Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

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His favourite things

Sidney Crosby Composite Stick Regular Flex Senior, $49.99, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Crosby SC87 4 Pump Hockey Skates – Senior, $179.99, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Lululemon Formula Pant, $84, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

Reebok 10K Back Pack Hockey Bag, $99.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Clif Chocolate Chip Peanut Crunch Protein Bar, left, $15 (12 bars per box) and Clif Shot Energy Gel, $24.99 (24 packages per box) available at clifbar.com.

Seb Toots Jacket, $170, available at O'Neill Canada, oneilleshop.ca/en.

ObusForme Aura 30 Daypack, $34.99, available at mass retailers nationwide, obusforme.ca.

Lululemon DTB Duffle, $78, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

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Quo Wood Grain Brush Collection, $45, available at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

M.A.C Cosmetics Dazzlesphere! Pink Ornament, $38.50, available at maccosmetics.com.

Sephora Wild and Chic Aqua Eyes Collection, $36, sephora.com.

Victoria's Secret Angel Eau de Parfum, $45-$75, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Pink Icicle Lip Gloss, $30, available at Cake Beauty, cakebeauty.com.

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COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

YOUR SMARTPHONE CAN HELP YOU FINISH YOUR LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING AND MORE!

'Tis the season to be frazzled. Luckily if you're equipped with a smartphone, you have help. While you can use your device to Google nearby stores, videotape holiday concerts or check the weather, there's much more your smartphone can do to help you get things wrapped up before Christmas morning.

THE WISH LIST

Use your Mobilicity mobile phone's notes option to put together a final list of items you still need to buy. Or, download the Free Christmas List (Android) or Gift Organizer ($3.99, BlackBerry) app to keep track. Both apps help organize your list and add in gift ideas, while the Card Star app (free, Android) can help manage your loyalty program cards.

Not sure if that electric drill is a good deal? The *Consumer Reports* Mobile Shopper 2012 app (free, BlackBerry; $4.89, Android) lets you compare ratings, reviews and feedback on products. Goods are searchable via a database or barcode scan. Better yet, if you have an Android phone, add the Red Laser Barcode & QR Scanner app or the Google Shopper app (both free) to search for deals.

Not sure about a gift? While you can call to discuss gift options over your device, many texting options also allow you to attach pics so your boyfriend can 'yay' or 'nay' that gift for his mom.

GETTING AROUND TOWN

Since you can't surf the web while driving, get one of your passengers to pull up Mapquest on their phone's browser or use their BlackBerry's GPS to help direct you to stores or a holiday party. But did you know that the Android Beat the Traffic app (free) or BlackBerry Traffic (free) app will give you the scoop on what's happening on the roads before you even head out? Once you're close to where you are going, pull over and use the BestParking app (free, Android) to help navigate a parking deal — be it through the nearest location or the cheapest lot available.

ENTERTAINING WAYS

Never sure which Chardonnay to bring to the party? Download Nat Decants Wine Reviews Pairings Recipes (free, BlackBerry)/Natalie Maclean Wine Picks (free, Android) to find out what your sommelier-wannabe boss might enjoy. Wine expert Maclean offers a guide of wines to bring, and you can even scan a bottle to get a review of tastings and prices.

If you're hosting the party and are in need of a recipe refresher, use your phone to watch your favourite TV chefs cooking up your favourite dish on YouTube. Or, download the Epicurious Recipe app (free, Android)/Food Network Canada Mobile (free, BlackBerry) for recipes available through searchable databases.

PICTURE THIS

Bye-bye bulky video cameras! Most new smartphones come equipped with cameras and video cameras that capture share-worthy memories. Any last minute holiday greetings you need to send? The Canada Post app (free, Android/BlackBerry) offers some holiday card help — it can turn a photo on your phone into a postcard Canada Post will print and mail for you.

ENJOY THE SEASON WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

The line-ups just before Christmas can be unbelievable, and with kids in tow, you'd better find a way to keep them busy. Hand the kids your mobile phone or suggest they use their own to try a few games of Solitaire. Better yet, download one of these apps to reduce stress and have a bit of fun!

ANGRY BIRDS SEASONS
ANDROID - FREE

Gingerbread cookies and candy canes have invaded this holiday version of the über-popular game app.

PET ELF ANIMATED CHRISTMAS ELEPHANT
BLACKBERRY - FREE

This cute and confused little elephant is convinced he's a reindeer and takes a run at your phone screen.

TALKING SANTA ANDROID - FREE

Much like the Talking Tom Cat that might already have a place in your phone, Talking Santa repeats after you, enjoys being tickled, and is pretty thankful when you feed him milk and cookies.

CHRISTMAS SNOW GLOBE 2.0
ANDROID - FREE

Have good, mindless fun with this app, which lets you start the snow by giving your phone a little shake.

2 MORE DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS

IF YOU STILL HAVE GIFTS TO PICK UP, DON'T WORRY – MOBILICITY CAN HELP. HERE ARE SOME FANTASTIC LAST-MINUTE DEALS FROM MOBILICITY SURE TO MAKE THE PERFECT GIFT.

MOBILICITY'S HOLIDAY MIRACLE SALE: 50 PER CENT OFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Get more wireless for less with 50 per cent off Mobilicity's regular monthly rate plans. The offer, which ends at Christmas, gives you half-off select unlimited monthly plans with no contract. For as low as $12.50 per month, you get unlimited talk and text. And for a limited time, you can get up to 50 percent off on data add-ons, too. For details, go to mobilicity.ca/unlimited-plans/.

SLEIGH BELLS RING: FREE BLACKBERRY INTERNET SERVICE FOR THREE MONTHS

Buy and activate any BlackBerry smartphone on select unlimited plans from Mobilicity and get three months of free unlimited BlackBerry Internet Service. You can surf, e-mail and use BlackBerry Messenger to your heart's content — it's Mobilicity's gift to you!

Huawei U2801

BELIEVE: PHONES STARTING FROM $49.99, NO CONTRACT, NO TAB

Take home a Huawei U2801 or LG Wink mobile phone from Mobilicity for just $49.99. These two phones are both super affordable and super fun.

All the basics are covered in the Huawei U2801. With a slim and easy-to-use design, the phone features a VGA camera, Bluetooth, email clients, as well as an FM Radio, music player and voice recorder.

The LG Wink is all about style and connectivity. It has a 2-inch screen as well as Stereo Bluetooth, an MP3 player, a 1.3 Megapixel camera with 2x zoom, and an expandable memory — up to 16GB.

LG Wink

JINGLE BELLS: $25 UNLIMITED PLAN WITH DATA

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Visit christmas.mobilicity.ca for all the details.

Seasonal Cheer

Your wine and spirits guide

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

Buying a bottle of booze as a gift is easy, right?

Buying the right bottle; now there's the challenge. Whether you have a wine, beer or spirit lover on your list one of these liquid gems is guaranteed to please.

White Owl Whisky ($34.95-$39.99)
Sure, while Canadian spirits are usually brown, this unique blend of aged whiskies is filtered clear without losing any of its rich, rounded flavours.

St-Germain Liqueur ($44.42-$59.99)
This wine lover's liqueur is made with French hand-picked elderflower blossoms. Soft and refreshing, it's a perfect ingredient for champagne cocktails on Christmas morning.

Masi 2007 Costasera Amarone Classico ($38.95-$49.99)
Is there a red wine that appeals to every palate? I say it's Amarone. Made with dried grapes it's the ideal conversation vino that speaks volumes all by itself.

Crystal Head Vodka ($44.98-$59.95)
OK, a skull-shaped bottle may not scream happy holidays, but this diamond-filtered neutral spirit — designed by Ghostbuster Dan Aykroyd — will add some seasonal magic to any vodka cocktail.

Veuve Clicquot Brut Champagne Ice Jacket ($65.15-$69)
Veuve's non-vintage yellow-labelled bubbly is a standard. Add a neoprene slip cover that will keep the passion juice cold for up to two hours and you are talking perfection.

St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur ($24.85-$28.98)
Cream liqueurs are a holiday essential and this one — made with a base of St-Rémy brandy — has a sexy creaminess that marries perfectly with its smooth alcohol base.

Skate Whisky ($49.98-$49.99)
You will score with any Canadian whisky loving hockey fan gifting this spirit that's smooth and subtle on the inside and classically kitschy (in a good way) on the outside.

Wychwood Bah Humbug Christmas Ale ($3.50-$5.29)
Ebenezer Scrooge's sour puss may be on the label, but this malty English ale will have the beer fans caroling.

The Kraken Black Spiced Rum ($26.99-$34.99)
Eggnog, meet your match. Dark, black and spicy, The Kraken unleashes major flavours that are exceptionally mixable and darn tasty on their own, too.

Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port ($3,495.99)
The wine for this once-in-a-lifetime tipple has been aged in barrels since 1855. Thought to be the last of its kind, there is no better way to say Merry Christmas.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Clockwise from top: St-Germain Liqueur; Masi 2007 Costasera Amarone Classico; The Kraken Black Spiced Rum; St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur; Crystal Head Vodka; Skate Whisky; White Owl Whisky; and Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port.

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Yamaha Designed 46" Upright Piano #117754	$3699	$3388**

*Limit 1 per customer on in store stock only. Not all items in all stores. 6 months 0% on selected items OAC. Gift Card winner selected Dec 31st. Excludes sale and clearance items. See in store for details. **Price including Yamaha Rebate which ends Dec. 31, 2011

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Firefly Boy's Delimit Snowboard Package $249.97 ($399.97 if purchased separately), available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Wayne Gretzky Ornament, a great gift for true Canadian hockey fans, $24.99, and Don Cherry Bobble-Head, treat the hockey fan in your family with a Grapes bobble-head, $24.99, both available at select Hallmark stores across Canada.

CCM Vector 4 Pink Helmet, $44.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Crosby SC87 PD Shield Short Sleeve Top, $24.99, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

PGT Jewel Pant, Blazing Yellow, $100, available at O'Neill Canada, oneilleshop.ca/en.

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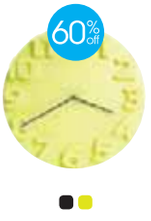

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GAY LEA PHOTO

'Hot' Chocolate Shortbread

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 ml) Gay Lea Butter (Unsalted), softened
- 2 tsp (10 ml) vanilla
- 2 cups (500 ml) all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup (175 ml) instant dissolving sugar
- ½ cup (125 ml) unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted
- 1 tsp (5 ml) each salt and ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) cayenne pepper
- melted white and dark chocolate

Preparation:

1 In a large bowl, beat the butter and vanilla until fluffy. In a separate bowl, whisk the flour with the sugar, cocoa, salt, cinnamon and cayenne pepper; beat into the butter mixture on low just until uniformly combined. Form the dough into a flat disc; wrap and chill for 1 hour or until firm enough to roll easily.

2 Preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C). Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

3 Roll the dough out between sheets of parchment paper to ¼-inch (5 mm) thick. Cut out shapes using 2-inch (5 cm) cookie cutters. Place the cookies, 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart, on baking sheets. Re-roll scraps and cut out additional cookies once. Bake, in batches, for 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Cool completely on a rack. Drizzle cooled cookies with melted white and dark chocolate for an attractive garnish. Let stand until completely set before packing. Makes about 3 dozen cookies

HELPFUL HINT: The heat in these cookies is subtle, so for those who want more intensity, increase cayenne pepper to ½ tsp (2 ml).

COURTESY GAY LEA FOODS CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

SOBEYS PHOTO

Candy Cane Chocolate Whoopie Pies

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 ml) Compliments all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup (60 ml) Compliments cocoa
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking soda
- ½ tsp (2 ml) salt
- ¾ cup + 2 tbsp (175 ml) milk, divided
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Sensations by Compliments Pure Vanilla Extract
- ¾ cup (175 ml) unsalted butter, room temperature, divided
- ½ cup (125 ml) brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) pure mint extract
- 2 cups (500 ml) icing sugar
- ¾ cup (175 ml) crushed or chopped Compliments Candy Canes (approx. 12 large), divided

Preparation:

1 Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). In a bowl, sift together flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In a measuring cup, stir together ¾ cup (175 ml) milk and vanilla. Set aside.

2 Using an electric mixer (stand or hand-held), cream together ¼ cup (60 ml) butter and the brown sugar until pale and fluffy, 3 to 5 min., then add egg. Reduce speed to low and alternately add portions of the dry ingredients and milk mixture, occasionally scraping down sides of bowl, finishing with dry ingredients. Beat just until a smooth batter forms.

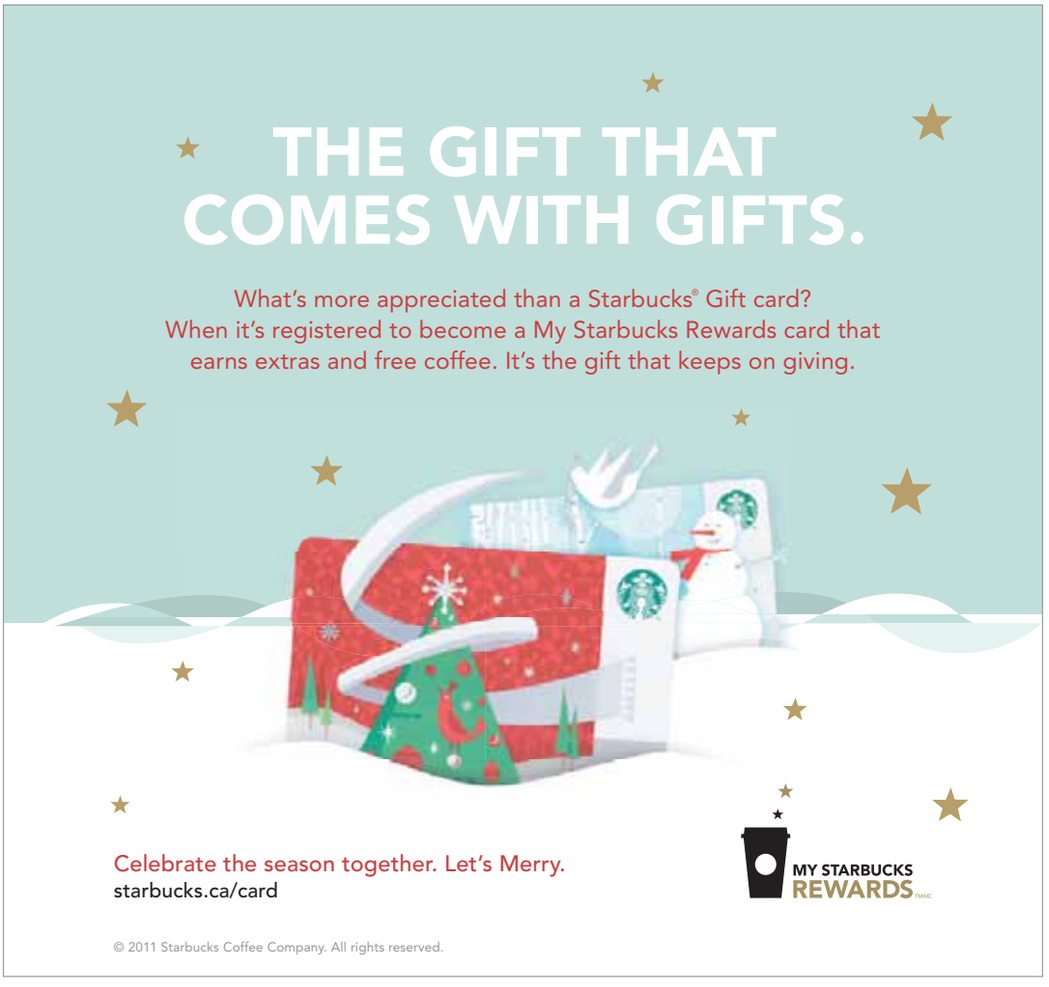
3 Using a tablespoon, portion out level spoonfuls of batter and place mounds, spaced about 1½ inch (4 cm) apart, on 2 parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Bake for 11 min., rotating baking sheets halfway through. Transfer pies to a wire rack and cool completely.

4 Meanwhile, make the filling. Using the mixer, whip remaining butter until fluffy, then add mint extract and remaining milk. With the mixer on low, gradually add icing sugar, occasionally scraping down sides of bowl. Beat until fluffy, about 4 min. Cover and set aside.

5 Fold ¼ cup (60 ml) crushed candy canes into the filling. Sandwich level tablespoons of filling between 2 pies, spreading to the edges. At this point, they can be refrigerated overnight in a parchment paper-lined airtight container, with parchment between pies if they are stacked. Just before serving, dab filling edges into remaining candy cane and lightly pat pieces into place. Transfer to a platter and serve immediately. Makes 20 pies.

Alternate filling: Add 1 tsp (5 ml) rum extract instead of mint extract to the filling and roll edges in ½ cup (125 ml) toasted shredded coconut instead of candy cane.

COURTESY OF SOBEYS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Bacon Jam Stuffed Potato Skins

Ingredients:

- 3 russet potatoes, scrubbed
- 8 tbsp (120 ml) Skillet Bacon Jam
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter, melted
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¾ cup (177 ml) cheddar cheese
- 1 cup (240 ml) sliced onions
- ¼ cup (60 ml) flour
- ½ cup (120 ml) vegetable oil, for frying
- sour cream in a squeeze bottle, for topping
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chopped Italian parsley, for garnish

Preparation:

1 Preheat oven to 350 F (176 C). Bake potatoes on middle rack until fork tender, about 1 hour. Remove from oven and let sit until cool enough to handle.

2 Preheat grill to medium heat. Cut potatoes in half, lengthwise, and spoon out the flesh, leaving a half-inch shell.

3 Melt the butter in saucepan and add minced garlic. Brush potatoes with the butter and garlic mixture. Flip over and butter the bottoms.

4 Place potatoes on grill and cook until crisp, about 4 to 4½ minutes on each side and remove from grill.

5 Put the vegetable oil in a skillet and pre-heat to medium heat. Coat the onions with the flour and fry in the vegetable oil until crispy golden brown. Gently season with salt and pepper.

6 Assembly: Spread 1 tbsp of bacon jam in each potato skin, top with cheddar cheese and put under broiler until bubbly and golden brown. Drizzle with sour cream and top with crispy onions and the parsley. Serves 4.

SKILLET STREET FOOD PHOTO

COURTESY OF SKILLET STREET FOOD IN SEATTLE (SKILLETSTREETFOOD.COM)

Season's eatings

Chocolate Boxes from Hudson's Bay Company Confectionary, $8.99 each, available at the Bay, thebay.com.

Tim Hortons Double Double Coffee Flavour Chocolate Truffles, $5.95, available at Tim Hortons, timhortons.com.

Baker Street Whoopies, $1.99 per whoopie, available nationally at retailers including Longo's, Metro, Loblaws, Sobeys, Sumerhill, Pusateri's and Garden Fresh Market.

Sweet Charity Tinned Peppermint Bark, $9.99, available at Winners, winners.ca.

Peanut Butter Cups with Fleur De Sel, $20, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Starbucks VIA Ready Brew Holiday Gift Set, $14.95, available at Starbucks, starbucks.ca.

Skillet Street Food Bacon Jam, $19.95 for a 300g container, available at fine food stores. A list of retail stores can be found at skilletstreetfood.com.

PC Mini Biscotti Assortment, $9.99, available where President's Choice products are sold, presidentschoice.ca.

Festive Popcorn Tins, $10.99, available at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

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Perfect turkey supporters

PETER ROCKWELL
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As sure as the Grinch stole Christmas, it's a given that we'll all receive at least one bottle of wine as a gift from a co-worker, guest or neighbour over the holiday season.

In my house, I pick the wines that go with Xmas dinner so — while much appreciated — anything that shows up at the door goes into the wine rack for future enjoyment.

Of course, considering how my family can plow through my wine selection, it would be nice if more of the freebies came with a roast turkey match in mind.

For reds, bring a plump New World pinot noir from California or Canada, a chocolaty old vines zinfandel (also from Cali.) or, for a slightly unconventional Old World partner, a Crianza or Reserva from Spain's Rioja region.

On the white side, think a not so oaky chardonnay from Australia or Chile, a German riesling or a rich, multi-blend like the ripe, refreshing cornucopia of grape flavours (five in all) that is California's Caymus 2009 Conundrum ($23.95 - $29.99).

Happy holidays! **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Happy healthy holidays

This Beef Wellington contains just 11 grams of fat and 328 calories

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This recipe serves eight.

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 190 C (375 F). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Season beef liberally with salt and pepper.
2. In sauté pan over medium-high, heat olive oil. When oil just smoking, add beef. Brown on all sides, 1 to 2 minutes per side. Once browned, remove beef and place on a rack to rest.
3. Add garlic to hot pan and cook until lightly browned, 20 seconds. Add mushrooms and onion and cook until soft and tender and all liquid has evaporated, 10 mins. Season with salt and pepper and add 10 ml (2 tsp) of the thyme.
4. Set aside 50 ml (1/4 cup) of mushroom-onion mix. Transfer rest to food processor and pulse to roughly chop until reduced to 5-mm (1/4-inch) pieces. Transfer to bowl and refrigerate 5 mins. Once slightly cooled, add spinach and egg whites and mix well.
5. In bowl, stir pancake mix with just enough water, about 75 ml (1/3 cup), to moisten and make dough that holds together but is not sticky. On lightly floured surface, roll dough to a thin rectangle that is 5 cm (2 inches) longer than the beef roast. Place beef on dough. Spoon spinach and mushroom mix on top and sides of beef and pat down tightly. Fold dough up and over top of beef and spinach and crimp seams together.
6. Place meat, seam side down, on baking sheet. Cut slits in top to vent. Bake 40 mins. or until centre registers 60 C (140 F). Remove from oven, cover with foil and let rest for 10 minutes.
7. Meanwhile, place 2 of porcini chunks in a spice grinder and grind to fine powder. Place mushroom powder, remaining whole porcini mushroom chunks and shredded jerky in a microwave-safe bowl with 500 ml (2 cups) of water. Microwave high until water is simmering. Let sit for 5 minutes and repeat.
8. Pour Madeira into small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to boil and boil 5 mins. or until reduced by half. Pour dried mushroom and beef broth through fine mesh strainer into Madeira while pushing on jerky and mushrooms to extract as much liquid as possible. Remove whole pieces of porcini mushrooms and roughly chop; set aside. Discard jerky. Bring broth and Madeira mix to a boil.
9. In bowl, combine arrowroot and 60 ml (4 tbsp) cold water. Mix and add to simmering sauce. Cook and stir 1 min or until sauce thickens. Add soy sauce, remaining thyme, reserved porcini and reserved mushroom and onion mix. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Slice roast into 8 even slices and arrange on a platter. Serve with sauce. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO**

Ingredients:

- 900 g (32 oz) beef tenderloin, centre cut, trimmed of all visible fat
- Salt and black pepper
- 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 285 g (10 oz) button mushrooms, sliced
- 250 ml (1 cup) diced onion
- 12 ml (2 1/2 tsp) thyme
- 1 pkg (284 g/10 oz) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 egg whites, beaten
- 400 ml (1 2/3 cups) Bisquick Heart Smart Pancake and Baking Mix
- 5 chunks dried porcini mushrooms
- 22 ml (3/4 oz) beef jerky, finely shredded
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) Madeira
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 10 ml (2 tsp) soy sauce

Tenderloin Tip

In order for this to be the best tasting Beef Wellington, the cut of meat is very important.

When you head to your local butcher or meat counter, be sure to specify that you want a centre-cut tenderloin.

This will ensure that you don't get a roast that contains several pieces of tenderloin pressed together.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Candy Cane Tarts

This recipe makes 12 tarts.

Candy canes' new role

Preparation:

1. Prepare tart shells according to package directions for unfilled tart shells. Set aside to cool. Whip topping according to package directions and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, combine instant chocolate pudding and milk. Beat using an electric mixer until thickened, 2 to 4 minutes.
3. Place half of the prepared pudding in a separate medium bowl and fold in 2/3 of the whipped topping. Divide plain pudding mixture evenly among cooled tart shells. Top with pudding-whipped topping mixture.
4. Refrigerate filled tarts and remaining whipped topping for at least 2 hours. Serve topped with a dollop of remaining whipped topping and sprinkle with crushed candy canes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ TENDERFLAKE

Ingredients:

- 12 frozen tart shells
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) whipped topping
- 1 pkg (250 g/8 oz) instant chocolate pudding
- 250 ml (1 cup) milk
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) crushed candy canes or mint candy

Some common sense can help keep food healthy and safe during the festive season

4 sports

Canucks preview

Calgary at Vancouver
Friday, 7 p.m.
TV: SNET

Calgary (16-15-4) travels to Vancouver (21-11-2) after beating Detroit Thursday. It's the third game between the Canucks and Flames this season. Vancouver won both previous games 5-1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Roberto Luongo has won seven of the past eight games in which he has played, boosting his record to 12-6-2.

Right on schedule, Canucks get hot

As 2012 nears, team starting to look like last year's formidable squad

The Vancouver Canucks are starting to resemble last season's Stanley Cup finalists as they prepare for their final game before Christmas.

Heading into Friday's home contest against the Calgary Flames, the Canucks are challenging for the Northwest Division lead and a chance for home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Vancouver has lost only three of its past 12 games since Nov. 20, evoking memories of a similar strong run (18-1-3) around this time last year.

"You'd have to say now, for almost six weeks here, our game has been pretty good on most nights," coach Alain Vigneault said earlier this week. "We're not perfect, but on most nights we play the right way."

As usual, the Canucks (21-11-2) are getting considerable offensive input from the Sedin twins. Prior to Thursday's games, Henrik Sedin sat second in NHL scoring with 40 points while Daniel, who led all point-getters last season, had a share of third with 39.

"We've been there in high-pressure moments, and most of the time we've responded really well. We know this year is another chance for us to accomplish big things."
WINGER ALEX BURROWS

But Vancouver is also getting offensive help from unlikely sources. Mason Raymond and Jannik Hansen have been two of the biggest surprises.

Raymond has seven points in nine games since returning from a fractured vertebrae. He suffered the career-threatening back injury in last spring's Stanley Cup final when Boston's Johnny Boychuk sent him backwards into the boards. The 26-year-old Cochrane, Alta., native spent months in a body brace before he was able to resume skating, and his ability to walk normally again remained in question.

Hansen, a perennial plugger long known for making great moves in practice but missing gift opportunities in games, has suddenly found scorer's hands. The 25-year-old native of Herlev, Denmark, is on a three-game points streak and has contributed offensively in 10 of the past 15 games while shifting between the first, second and third line.

Vigneault said Hansen has responded to produce points more often. With 11 goals already this season, Hansen has surpassed the career high of nine he produced twice previously. The winger is also well on his way to surpassing the career-high 29 points he accumulated last season. After 34 games, he is just 10 points shy of the total he produced in a full 82-game slate in 2010-11.

Meanwhile, versatile forward Chris Higgins has continued to produce consistently despite being sidelined recently with a foot infection. With 22 points, he is only six short of the 28 he managed with Florida and the Canucks last season. The Canucks acquired him at the trade deadline, becoming his fifth team since 2008-09.

The defence is also doing its part, at both ends of the rink. Since beginning their winning tear with a 2-1 win over Ottawa on Nov. 20, the Canucks have allowed 30 fewer goals than they have scored, netting 56 while only surrendering 26.

Defencemen have also produced points consistently. Alex Edler, currently on a four-game points streak, is making general manager Mike Gillis look wise for not trying to acquire another high-scoring defenceman after free agent Christian Ehrhoff bolted to the Buffalo Sabres in the off-season. With 24 points, Edler is in position to exceed the 50 that Ehrhoff generated last season.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

World junior gold 'earned, not given'

Canada is again a contender for gold at the world junior hockey championship, but the host country will have to fight off stiff challenges from the United States, Russia and Sweden.

Canada opens the 2012 world junior tournament Sunday in Edmonton against Finland, a dark horse in the race for gold.

Canadian teams have reached the final of this tournament every year for the last decade and won half of them. Fair or not, Canadians have come to depend on seeing their country in the championship game.

So the biggest challenge Canada's 2012 edition faces is avoiding a sense of entitlement in this tournament.

On the back of the players' T-shirts during selection camp in Calgary earlier this month was the slogan "earned, not given."

"There's no rule that we deserve gold every year," Canadian head coach Don Hay said. "Other countries want it too and there's other countries that believe they play the right way."

After a run of five straight golds, Canada lost in overtime to the U.S. in the 2010 final in Saskatoon and spectacularly collapsed in the 2011 final in Buffalo, N.Y., when Russia scored five unanswered goals in the third period to win 5-3.

But to call Canada's campaign this year "redemption" is unfair because 18 of the 22 players on this year's team did not play in Buffalo. That label could perhaps be applied to goaltender Mark Visentin, who was in net against Russia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's really good because we have a fresh start, a clean slate and pretty much a whole new team."
GOALTENDER MARK VISENTIN

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d-Boston	32	22	9	0	1	111	63	45	12-6-0-1	10-3-0-0	8-2-0-0	W5
d-Florida	35	18	10	3	4	94	90	43	8-3-1-4	10-7-2-0	5-2-2-1	L2
NY Rangers	32	20	8	1	3	95	70	44	9-3-0-2	11-5-1-1	6-3-0-1	W3
Pittsburgh	34	19	11	2	2	110	90	42	10-4-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-5-0-0	W2
Toronto	34	17	13	2	2	105	110	38	8-5-2-2	9-8-0-0	3-5-2-0	W1
Ottawa	35	17	14	2	2	110	120	38	10-7-0-1	7-7-2-1	5-3-1-1	W3
New Jersey	33	18	14	0	1	91	96	37	7-6-0-1	11-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Winnipeg	34	16	13	3	2	95	100	37	12-5-0-1	4-8-3-1	7-2-0-1	W1
Washington	32	17	14	0	1	95	97	35	11-5-0-1	6-9-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Buffalo	34	16	15	2	1	92	101	35	8-9-2-1	8-6-0-0	3-5-2-0	L3
Montreal	36	13	16	2	5	88	101	33	5-7-2-4	8-9-0-1	3-5-0-2	L5
Tampa Bay	33	14	17	0	2	89	114	30	8-5-0-0	6-12-0-2	3-7-0-0	L1
NY Islanders	32	11	15	4	2	74	103	28	6-8-3-0	5-7-1-2	4-4-2-1	L1
Carolina	35	10	19	4	2	89	120	26	6-10-0-2	4-9-4-0	2-6-2-0	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Chicago	35	22	9	1	3	118	102	48	12-2-0-3	10-7-1-0	8-1-0-1	W1
d-Minnesota	36	20	11	2	3	86	82	45	10-4-1-2	10-7-1-1	4-4-0-2	L6
d-San Jose	31	18	10	2	1	93	76	39	11-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	5-3-1-1	W3
Vancouver	34	21	11	0	2	114	82	44	10-4-0-1	11-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	W3
Detroit	34	21	12	1	0	111	78	43	13-2-1-0	8-10-0-0	5-5-0-0	L2
St. Louis	33	19	10	0	4	84	72	42	13-3-0-1	6-7-0-3	6-2-0-2	L1
Nashville	34	18	12	3	1	92	93	40	9-5-2-1	9-7-1-0	7-3-0-0	W1
Dallas	33	19	13	0	1	86	93	39	10-5-0-1	9-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Phoenix	34	18	13	1	2	90	89	39	7-7-1-1	11-6-0-1	5-5-0-0	W2
Calgary	35	16	15	2	2	87	97	36	10-5-1-1	6-10-1-1	5-3-1-1	W2
Colorado	35	17	17	1	0	94	104	35	11-9-0-0	6-8-1-0	6-4-0-0	W3
Los Angeles	33	15	14	2	2	72	81	34	8-9-0-1	7-5-2-1	4-6-0-0	W1
Edmonton	34	15	16	0	3	93	91	33	10-6-0-2	5-10-0-1	3-6-0-1	W1
Anaheim	33	9	19	2	3	78	110	23	7-9-1-0	2-10-1-3	3-6-1-0	L3
Columbus	34	9	21	1	3	85	117	22	6-10-1-1	3-11-0-2	3-6-1-0	L4

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Toronto 3 Buffalo 2
N.Y. Rangers 4 N.Y. Islanders 2
Ottawa 4 Florida 3 (OT)
Nashville 6 Columbus 5
Winnipeg 4 Montreal 0
Edmonton 4 Minnesota 1
Calgary 3 Detroit 2
Anaheim at Los Angeles
Wednesday's results
Vancouver 4 Detroit 2
Chicago 5 Montreal 1
Colorado 3 St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 4 Dallas 1
Phoenix 4 Carolina 3
San Jose 7 Tampa Bay 2

Tonight's games
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Dec. 24-25
Holiday Break
No Games Scheduled.

LEAFS 3, SABRES 2

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Kaleta Buf (hooking) 5:18, Boyce Tor (interference) 7:47, Vanek Buf (hooking) 7:51, McNabb Buf (roughing), Phaneuf Tor (slashing) 11:56, Stafford Buf (interference) 13:24.
Second Period
1. Buffalo, Pominville 11 (Vanek) 11:49
2. Toronto, Steckel 6 (Schenn, Crabb) 15:52
3. Toronto, Kessel 20 (Lupul, Phaneuf) 16:54
Penalties — Kessel Tor (interference) 1:45, Frattin Tor (holding) 5:07, Kulemin Tor (interference) 9:44, Bozak Tor (delay of game) 10:37, Kaleta Buf (roughing) 12:16, Gaustad Buf (delay of game) 13:21.
Third Period
4. Buffalo, Roy 8 (Pominville) 1:29
5. Toronto, Kadri 1 (MacArthur) 5:52
Penalties — Weber Buf (interference) 11:24, Kadri Tor (tripping) 15:59.
Shots on goal by

Buffalo	6	19	17	42
Toronto	12	12	7	31

Goal — Buffalo: Miller (L,8-7-2); Toronto: Reimer (W,6-3-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Buffalo: 1-6; Toronto: 0-6.
Referees — Dean Morton, Kevin Pollock.
Linesmen — Greg Devorski, Steve Miller.
Att. — 19,473 (18,819) at Toronto.

JETS 4, HABS 0

First Period
1. Winnipeg, Wheeler 4 (Byfuglien, Enstrom) 3:18 (pp)
2. Winnipeg, Glass 4 (Antropov, Wellwood) 13:13
Penalties — Gill Mtl (double high-sticking) 2:43.
Second Period
3. Winnipeg, Wheeler 5 (Hainsey, Pavelec) 0:39
Penalties — Byfuglien Wpg (interference) 1:47, Thorburn Mtl (double high-sticking) 9:36, Stuart Wpg (interference) 15:10, Enstrom Wpg (holding) 18:49.
Third Period
4. Winnipeg, Stapleton 4 (Wheeler, Bogosian) 17:36
Penalties — None.
Shots

Montreal	6	16	5	27
Winnipeg	13	8	13	34

Goal — Montreal: Price (L,12-12-7); Winnipeg: Pavelec (W,12-11-15). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Montreal: 0-5; Winnipeg 0-2.
Referees — Dan O'Halloran, Stephen Walkom.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Mike Cvik.
Att. — 15,004 (15,004) at Winnipeg.

FLAMES 3, WINGS 2

First Period
1. Calgary, Glencross 12 (Jokinen, Brodie) 16:10 (pp)
Penalties — Zetterberg Det (hooking) 12:04, Bertuzzi Det (hooking) 15:41.
Second Period
2. Calgary, Comeau 2 (Morrison, Jackman) 1:30
3. Calgary, Glencross 13 (Bouwmeester) 5:47
Penalties — Sarich Cal (interference) 3:58, Holmstrom Det (goaltender interference) 4:32, Smith Cal (tripping) 10:12.
Third Period
4. Detroit, Hudler 8 (Ericsson) 4:55
5. Detroit, White 5 (Datsyuk) 15:48
Penalties — None.
Shots

Detroit	5	11	15	31
Calgary	9	13	5	27

Goal — Detroit: Conklin (L,1-4-0); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,16-11-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Detroit: 0-2; Calgary: 1-3.
Referees — Mark Joannette, Tom Kowal.
Linesmen — Dan Henderson, Mark Wheler.
Att. — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

OILERS 4, WILD 1

First Period
1. Edmonton, Eberle 14, 15:57 (pp)
2. Edmonton, Smyth 14 (Smid, Gilbert) 18:36
Missed penalty shot — Hall Edm, 19:48.
Penalties — Peters Minn (hooking) 5:04, Hordichuk Edm (goaltender interference) 8:10, Stoner Minn (tripping) 10:37, Falk Minn (delay of game) 15:11, Eager Edm (boarding) 20:00.
Second Period
3. Edmonton, Petrell 3, 1:40 (sh)
4. Edmonton, Eberle 15 (Nugent-Hopkins, Potter) 2:56
Penalties — Minnesota bench (too many men; served by Bouchard) 10:29, Gagner Edm (double high-sticking) 19:01.
Third Period
5. Minnesota, Heatley 10 (Cullen, Spurgeon) 7:57
Penalties — Petrell Edm (checking from behind major) 2:50, Petrell Edm (game misconduct) 2:50.
Shots

Minnesota	3	13	15	31
Edmonton	20	9	2	31

Goal — Minnesota: Backstrom (L,11-8-4); Edmonton: Khabibulin (W,11-8-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Minnesota: 0-5; Edmonton: 1-4.
Att. — 16,839 (16,839) at Edmonton

HOCKEY

2012 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

All Times Eastern

EXHBITION SCHEDULE

Last night's results
At Red Deer, Alta.
Canada 7 Switzerland 1
At Brooks, Alta.
Latvia vs. Denmark
At Lethbridge, Alta.
Russia vs. Czech Republic
Tonight's games
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Sweden, 9:30 p.m.
At Three Hills, Alta.
U.S. vs. Slovakia, 9 p.m.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Monday, Dec. 26
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Finland, 3:30 p.m.
U.S. vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Sweden vs. Latvia, 5:30 p.m.
Russia vs. Switzerland, 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 27
At Edmonton
Denmark vs. Czech Republic, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Latvia vs. Slovakia, 10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 28
At Edmonton
Finland vs. U.S., 3:30 p.m.
Czech Republic vs. **Canada**, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Switzerland vs. Sweden, 5:30 p.m.
Slovakia vs. Russia, 10 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Russia vs. Latvia, 10 p.m.

ACTIVITY

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jason Marquis on a one-year contract.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Named John Tamargo Jr. manager of Lansing (MWL); Mike Redmond manager of Dunedin (FSL) and Clayton McCullough manager of Vancouver (NWL). National League
NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with C Rob Johnson on a minor league contract.

NBA

NEW JERSEY NETS—Waived F Stephen Graham.

NFL

NFL—Fined New York Jets LB Calvin Pace $15,000 for an illegal hit on Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick in a Dec. 18 game.

NHL

NHL—Suspended Pittsburgh D Deryk Engelland three games for an illegal check to the head of Chicago F Marcus Kruger during a Dec. 20 game.

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Yesterday's results
Tottenham 1 Chelsea 1

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY

Yesterday's results
Fourth Round
Second Leg
Valencia 4, Cadiz 0 (Valencia advances 4-0 on aggregate)
Barcelona 9, Hospitalet 0 (Barcelona advances 10-0 on aggregate)

FOOTBALL

U.S. COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

All Times ET
Last night's result
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Boise State vs. Arizona State
Tomorrow's game
HAWAII BOWL
At Honolulu
Nevada (7-5) vs. Southern Mississippi (11-2), 8 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 26
INDEPENDENCE BOWL
At Shreveport, La.
North Carolina (7-5) vs. Missouri (7-5), 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 27
LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA BOWL
At Detroit
Western Michigan (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 4:30 p.m.
BELK BOWL
At Charlotte, N.C.
North Carolina State (7-5) vs. Louisville (7-5), 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 28
MILITARY BOWL
At Washington
Air Force (7-5) vs. Toledo (8-4), 4:30 p.m.
HOLIDAY BOWL
At San Diego
Texas (7-5) vs. California (7-5), 8 p.m.

NBA

PRE-SEASON

Last night's results
Atlanta 92 Charlotte 75
Denver at Phoenix
Wednesday's results
Orlando 104 Miami 100
Boston 81 Toronto 73
New York 88 New Jersey 82
New Orleans 95 Memphis 80
Minnesota 85 Milwaukee 84
San Antonio 97 Houston 95
Utah 92 Portland 89
L.A. Clippers 108 L.A. Lakers 103
Tonight's games
No games scheduled

NFL

WEEK 16

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	437	297
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	346	315
Miami	5	9	0	.357	286	269
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	311	371
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Houston	10	5	0	.667	359	255
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	279	278
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	207	293
Indianapolis	2	13	0	.133	230	411
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	334	236
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	285	218
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	305	283
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	195	274
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Denver	8	6	0	.571	292	343
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	317	382
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	358	313
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	192	319

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	348	296
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	334	372
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	342	311
Washington	5	9	0	.357	252	300
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
x-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	457	306
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	281
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	341	368
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	247	401
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Green Bay	13	1	0	.929	480	297
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	395	332
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	293
Minnesota	2	12	0	.143	294	406
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-San Francisco	11	3	0	.786	327	185
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	284	273
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	273	305
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	166	346

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
Last night's result
Indianapolis 19 Houston 16
Tomorrow's games
All Times Eastern
Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Sunday's game
Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
Atlanta at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

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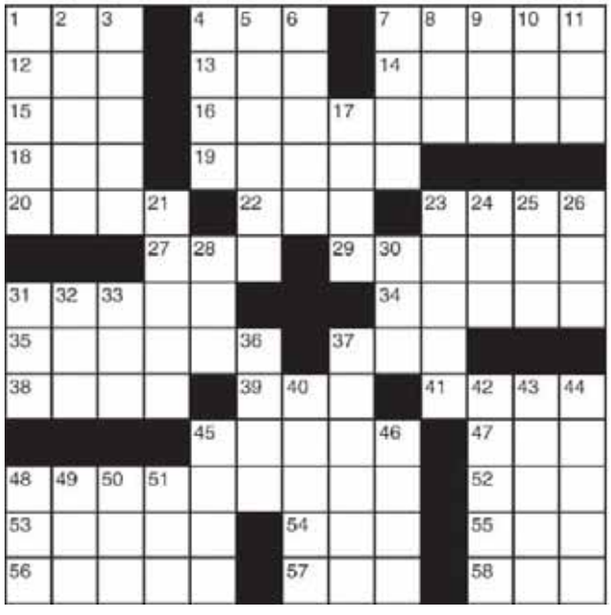
Crossword



Across
1 Hot tub
4 Physicist's deg.
7 Cut in two
12 Chop
13 Scrooge's cry
14 Crosswise, nautically
15 Historic time
16 Four-line verses
18 Atmosphere
19 Seafood entree
20 Dog bane?
22 Very long time
23 Former frosh
27 Needlefish
29 There
31 Perfect
34 Perspectives
35 With 48-Across, "Family Feud" material
37 Bankroll
38 Oliver Twist's request
39 Clean Air Act org.
41 Send forth
45 Pilfered
47 Inseparable
48 See 35-Across
52 "Monty Python" opener
53 Pianist Eubie
54 Young seal
55 Prepared
56 Disrobe
57 Pigpen
58 Attempt

Down
1 Wheat bundle
2 Danger
3 Cognizant
4 Cookouts, for short
5 UFO, maybe
6 Guitarist once wed to Xavier Cugat
7 Difficult
8 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
9 Island garland
10 Forefront
11 Typog-raphy units
17 Broadway prize
21 Tequila source
23 Insinuating
24 "— on a Grecian Urn"
25 Church seat
26 Storefront sign abbr.
28 Hearty brew
30 Eggs
31 Doctrine
32 Pair with an air
33 Mess up
36 Abominable Snowman
37 Reddish brown
40 Tires (out)
42 Wettish
43 Bury
44 Irascible
45 Dance lesson
46 Catch sight of
48 Brady and Brees, for ex.
49 Last (Abbr.)
50 Listener
51 Tackle moguls

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

9			2		6			8
		5			3			
				8			1	
8	6			2				9
		7	5		9	4		
5				7			6	2
	1			4				
			6			5		
3			8		1			7

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

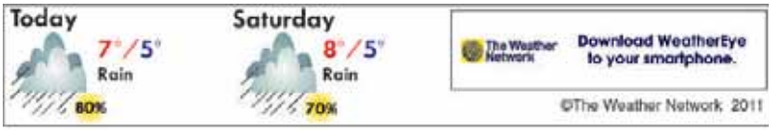
8	3	5	6	2	7	1	9	4
1	2	9	3	8	4	6	5	7
6	4	7	5	1	9	3	8	2
4	1	8	9	5	6	7	2	3
7	6	3	8	4	2	5	1	9
9	5	2	1	7	3	4	6	8
2	9	6	4	3	1	8	7	5
3	8	1	7	9	5	2	4	6
5	7	4	2	6	8	9	3	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Me (D.B. my wish)
I bet a lot of us hoped to received a similar message. Apologies are always welcome no matter what, and it's never too late for it. A simple lie might seem innocent at first, but when discovered can hurt a lot, way too much. So many things I should have said, so many questions that haven't been answered and it's probably why I can hardly move on. Merry Christmas xoxoxo
FROM MISSY

Missed Connection
May joy & goodwill be your gift on your birthday (The 29TH). May this Christmas day... be as special as you are to me! Wishing you a very heartfelt X Mas & wonderful New Year.
FROM SECRET CRUSH



Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be thinking a lot about your work and your reputation over the next few days.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If someone says you should not be concerned about what is going on in your immediate environment that means you should be very concerned indeed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 It would appear that you have been worrying about your money situation for no good reason and over the next few days you will see solutions where before you saw only problems.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are in two minds whether to get involved in a feud that is really none of your business.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 This is the ideal time to think of ways to reduce your chores and improve your health.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Your confidence is improving by the hour and it won't be long before your more positive attitude brings some seriously encouraging results.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You may find it hard to ask for assistance but ask you must because if you go it alone over the holiday period you could find yourself in a bit of a muddle.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The approaching new moon makes it easier for you to express yourself – and easier for others to understand what it is you are trying to say.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Good news from afar will cheer you up today, not least because it means you could make a lot of money.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You are on the cusp of a positive phase.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Don't snap at people who try to cheer you up — they mean well.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. This is a good day to contact friends and relatives and plan a get together for between now and the end of the year.

SALLY BROMPTON

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Caption contest

MUSADEQ SADEQ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Montreal, Quebec – One fun thing leads to another as the shockingly powerful, ridiculously fuel-efficient 2012 Chevrolet Sonic hatch and sedan hit the downtown streets. As for sibling rivalry? Let's just say it's a good thing they're both confident in the looks department.

1. Removed street sign above the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic 5-door. 2. Removed walkway stripe below the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic 5-door. 3. Changed colour of building sign to yellow. 4. Added stripe to sweater. 5. Added a sign onto the patio wall. 6. Switched the direction of the patio lamp above the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic sedan. 7. Removed building décor from right side of corner building. 8. Removed a green flag from the hanging line. 9. Added building décor to left side of corner building. 10. Removed streetlight from right side of image

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Aberdeen Mall
Admiralty Centre
Lansdowne Mall
Presidents Plaza

Surrey
Central City Mall
10255 King George Blvd
Payal Business Centre
Guildford Town Centre

Vancouver
1641 Commercial Dr,

568 Dunsmuir St
2390 East Hastings St
6338 Fraser St
1463 Kingsway Ave
3081 Main St
530 West Broadway
Broadway & Commercial Skytrain Station
Burrard Skytrain Station
Harbour Centre
Tinseltown
3263 West Broadway

North Vancouver
Lonsdale Quay
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952 Granville St
3398 Kingsway Ave
345 East Broadway

New Westminster
389 Columbia St,
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MVP Electronics: 807 Carnarvon St

Port Moody
iBay Communications 2929 St. John St, Unit 2

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City Zone Mobile: 15277 100th Ave

Vancouver
Leading Age Computers: 3399 Kingsway Ave